



Will EISNER'S

THE SPIRIT

25



BEACON
CENTRAL CITY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1949

**ACTION
Mystery
Adventure**



by Will EISNER

To the north of Central City, on a hill overlooking the bustling metropolis, lies abandoned Wildwood Cemetery. Here, hidden in the tangled weedy growth, is the hideaway of the Spirit. Accepted by the police as a friendly 'outlaw' and feared by the underworld, his true identity is still a mystery. Who is really the man behind the mask? Every so often, someone tries to find out...



REPORT from EUROPE

This past summer Will Eisner and I spent ten days in England, France, Denmark and Holland. The primary purpose of our trip was to promote the new *City* portfolio at special signings, but we were also interested in examining the European comics market firsthand. 15% (a growing figure) of my own comic book line is now sold overseas and Eisner's work has, for years, been reprinted in a variety of languages.

Our first stop was London's Heathrow Airport, where we were met by Nick Landau and Mike Lake of Titan Distribution Company. The third partner in this enterprise, Mike Luckman, had recently married lovely Jonni Levas (of Sea Gate Distribution) in the U.S. and complex American immigration laws prevented him from returning to England in time for the signing.

On Friday, June 20th, we both addressed the Society of Strip Illustrators, moderated by comics historian and TV personality Denis Gifford and attended by many British cartoonists.

The retail arm of Titan is a shop called *Forbidden Planet*, nestled in a busy district dominated by bookstores. On the morning of the 21st, a long queue of customers wound through the shop as Eisner and I arrived. Eisner spent the day patiently autographing editions of *City*, *A Contract With God*, *The Spirit* and yellowed copies of *Wags* (where his earliest work appeared in England). Behind the counter, a punk, a hippie, a skinhead and a middle-aged lady handled sales, testifying to the curious mix of cultures in London.

Our hosts provided Eisner with a coveted ticket to Wimbledon. He spent a rainy Monday afternoon watching

Bjorn Borg demolish an opponent while I toured London via the underground (subway).

We departed early on the 24th for Paris. Our ancient hotel, the Esmeralda, had dark narrow hallways straight out of a *Spirit* set. The dungeon-like walls had cracks large enough for previous guests to leave cryptic messages stuffed in crevices. We spent an active day in the offices of *Métal Hurlant*, entertained by publisher Jean Pierre Dionnet and editor Philippe Manoeuvre, who have produced several striking *Spirit* "albums."

The French comics scene, with *Métal Hurlant* in the vanguard, is colorful, outrageous and enthusiastic. We visited *Temps Futurs*, the leading comics shop in Paris. I was pleased to see that much of the basement floor of Stan Baret's shop (appropriately enough) was devoted to American undergrounds. At a nightclub we were interviewed by a reporter for the Communist newspaper, *Humanity* (can anybody translate this article for us?) Afterward, over justly-famed French cuisine we met comics and rock critic Marjorie Alessandrini (author of a Robert Crumb biography) and husband Paul, a journalist and filmmaker.

Jens Peder Agger, the comic division editor for the publishing firm Carlsen if, greeted us in beautiful Copenhagen. Like all Europeans, the Danes are avid comics consumers. But we were still astounded to learn that the Danes (total population 5 million) buy 250,000 *Donald Duck* comics every week.

Agger and Eisner discussed a project that must be kept under wraps for now but which will delight Eisner fans in 1981. Then we met artist/historian



Will Eisner, Stan Nicholls, Mike Lake and Nick Landau (kneeling) at *Forbidden Planet*, London.

Kjeld Heltoft at a picturesque waterfront bar. Heltoft, a director of the Royal Academy of Arts, declared emphatically at one point, "Picasso is not one half the artist you are, Will Eisner!" and announced plans for an exhibit of Eisner's art at the prestigious Academy in Copenhagen.

We visited a jam-packed comics shop called *Fantask*, owned by Rolf Bulow and partners, and managed a walk thru famous *Tivoli Gardens* before departing June 27th for Amsterdam, Holland.

There we were met by Peter de Raaf who drove us through lovely Dutch countryside to Rotterdam, the site of *Fantastic Visions*, a marvelous comics shop owned by de Raaf, Henk Baard, and Ton Van Loon.

Eisner's *A Contract With God* had been voted the top book in Holland in 1979 by Dutch comics critics for the popular magazine *Stripschrift*. This was the first time an American had received the honor, in competition against nearly 400 titles from around the world.

Eisner's popularity in Holland was driven home by big articles in both of Rotterdam's daily newspapers. One, *Het Vrije Volk*, announced Eisner's arrival in bold headlines and a color picture that (with a photo of Bo Derek) dominated the front page of the newspaper, with lesser world events taking what space remained.

On June 28th, Eisner held another signing. Despite pouring rain, customers crammed into *Fantastic Visions*, setting a single day sales record for the shop.

We left Europe both impressed and inspired by the international scope of the medium.

Denis Kitchen

Ton Van Loon, Will Eisner, Henk Baard, and Peter de Raaf at *Fantastic Visions* in Rotterdam, Holland.



Mike Lettinga photo

THE DEPT. of LOOSE ENDS

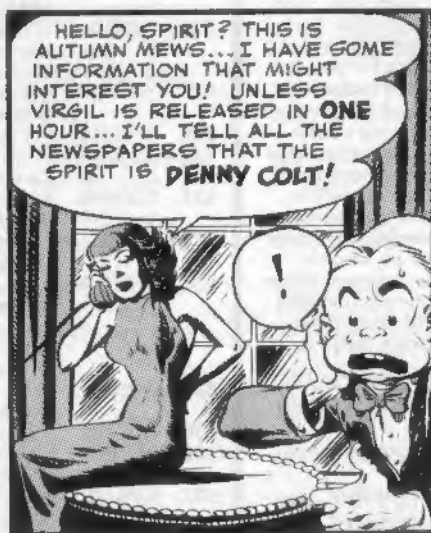
This time around we don't have a lot of loose ends to tie in, it seems. Let's see... our cover is a little different than usual. Oh, you noticed, did you? The two posters on the wall are actually *Spirit* splash pages from long ago, colored by Leslie Cabarga. And thereby hangs a tale. It seems that Leslie, whose beautiful air-brush work has graced the pages of everything from *Dope Comix* to *Playboy* magazine, is the son of one Ted Cabarga, who for fifteen years was the art director of American Visuals, a company Will Eisner ran while producing educational comics. So, in a sense, Leslie is following in a family tradition by working with Will on this project.

As for the posters themselves, the one on the front is from a *Spirit* story done by Eisner in 1949. More about that below. The back cover poster is the work of the late Lou Fine, the artist who ghosted *The Spirit* while Will was in the army. This solitary splash page from 1942 is the only example of Fine's original artwork still in Will's possession and we thought this would be a nice way to rescue it from oblivion. While on the subject of Fine, it seems that Eisner has proofs for several of the war-time *Spirit* stories he scripted and pencilled and which were inked by Fine, as well as a number which were completely drawn by Fine over scripts by Manly Wade Wellman and Bill Woolfolk. What do you readers think---would you like to see a complete Eisner/Fine story or two reprinted? How about those by Fine alone? Write and let us know.

Because the front cover contains such a lovely color rendition of its splash page, we decided to run the entire *Return of Autumn Mews* story this issue as well, even though it was not planned that way in advance. As the title implies, this is the second story in which Autumn appears, the first having been published on October 2, 1949, and reprinted in Warren's *Spirit* No.11. The only other mention of *Autumn Mews* in *The Spirit* occurred in the New Year's story, *Fan Mail*, published January 1, 1951 and reprinted in Kitchen Sink's *Spirit* No.18.

Sharp-eyed readers will spot one slight anomaly in this issue--- *The Doppelganger* is an eight page story, not a seven pager. Well...actually it's more complicated than that--- but just to set the record straight, here's the lowdown. *The Doppelganger* was originally published (as a seven pager) on October 19, 1947. Later, on March 11, 1951, it was reprinted (still as a seven pager). The reprint consisted of a new splash page and a new last tier of three panels on page seven, wrapped around an abridged story made up of selected panels from the original version. The new splash used the words which had appeared at the end of the first version---as an introduction---and the new ending was a much better and funnier second take on the whole premise behind the plot. So... rather than lose that lovely second splash and second ending, we have run them around the entire original seven page story. But (I told you this gets complicated) the original art for the first story had somehow lost a pasteover on the first page during its years in the vault---so Will has drawn a new first panel to the old page one (which is now page two). Get it? In order to bridge the gap between both versions, the new panel is not a copy of the old one, in case you wondered. Also, just to be perfectly scholarly, we have left the old page numbers on, so you'll notice that there are two page ones, followed by seven numbered pages. Whew!

Luckily, all the rest of the stories in this issue are simple reprints and don't require another word of explanation. Enjoy 'em.



THE SPIRIT

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- 4.....*Classified Ads*. Buy and sell.
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- 15.....*Coot Gallus*. A fitting story for this election year.
- 22.....*The Return of Autumn Mews*. *The Spirit's* secret identity is discovered!!
- 29.....*Life On Another Planet*, chapter 7. Will Eisner's all-new adventure serial continues to pick up steam and take new twists.
- 45.....*The Doppelganger*. (See the column at left).
- 53.....*The Last Man on the Moon*. Chapter 6 of the Eisner/Wood outer space serial.

COMING UP

Next Issue: The concluding chapter of *Life on Another Planet*... *Nylon Rose* (1946), which inspires our next wraparound cover... *The Lipstick Print Case* (1946)... *The Confessions of Monk Mallon* (1941)... *The Man in the Moon* (1946, Wally Wood)... *Umbrella Handles* (1947)... and a brand new Eisner story, *The Public Interest*.
And the usual departments.

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THE SPIRIT CHECKLIST

BY CATBYRON WODE

ABBREVIATIONS OF COMICS AND MAGAZINES

CM	Comic Media	IW/P	IW Plastic Man	SB	Spirit Bag
E	Eerie	K	Kitchen Sink Spirit	SCB	Spirit Coloring Book
FH	Fiction House Spirit	M	Modern Comics	SM	Spiritman
H	Harvey Spirit	P	Police Comics	TCM	3 Comics Magazine
IW/S	IW/Super Spirit	Q	Quality/Vital Spirit	W	Warren Spirit

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

503. 1/15/50. (continued . . .)
(B&W Proof), W 8-14 "Bring In Sand Saref"
(B&W Tones, retouched, original title deleted
from splash), Masters of Comic Book Art (B&W
Tones, picked up by photographing the Warren
version rather than using same plates or stats.)
[In addition to all the reprints, this is one of the
stories parodied in 553, which see]
504. 1/22/50. ("The Predictions of Druid Peer")
505. 1/29/50. ("Ratt Trapp") [Another John Law feature, this
was originally 8 pages long and the name it bore
was "Ratt Gutt." In the Next Week box of 1/22/50
it was advertised as "Ratt Gutt," but Eisner changed
the name at the last minute. In addition to the very
minor rewriting necessitated by the name change,
the first two pages of the 1948 version were scrapped
(They had been a double page splash) and the idea
incorporated into a new one-page splash to bring the
page count down to the required 7. The original art
was pasted over and whited out to transform John
Law into The Spirit and Nubbin into Willum Waif.
For more details on John Law, see notes to 502]
506. 2/5/50. ("Nickles Nerser") K 23-43 "Nickles Nerser" (B&W
Tones)
507. 2/12/50. "Roller Derby"
508. 2/19/50. "The Half-Dead Mr. Lox" [This was the third story in
the unpublished 1948 John Law comic book. In
its original form it was 6 pages long and starred John
Law and Nubbin The Shoeshine boy. As with the
others in this series, it was converted into a Spirit
Section by inking a mask over Law's eyepatch and
transforming Nubbin into another character (Willum
Waif in this instance) by pasting new art over the
old and rewriting a few balloons. In addition the
original double page splash was cut apart and pasted
up with new art into pages 2 and 3 of the later ver-
sion and a new splash was added by using some art
from a rejected cover for the first, discarded attempt
at John Law. For more details, see notes to 502
and 511]
509. 2/26/50. ("Oil and Sand") [This is a partially refried version
of 60]
510. 3/5/50. "Sammy And Delilah" W 14-26 "Sammy And
Delilah" (B&W Tones, retouched)
511. 3/12/50. ("The Jewel of Gizeh") [Although the rest of the
art for this section was written and drawn in 1950,
the splash page is a reworked version of the final
cover for the unpublished 1948 John Law comic
book. Stats for at least 4 inked covers exist. Three
of them use the same large figure of John Law, with
differing smaller characters in the foreground. One
version, featuring Nubbin and The Half-Dead Mr.
Lox, was cut apart and formed the basis for the
splash of 508. In this section, the police badge has
been whited out of John Law's shirt and his pipe
removed. His eyepatch has been inked into a mask
and the figures of Sand, a policeman and a thug have
replaced the various others which had appeared in
the foreground. This large figure of John Law/The
Spirit also formed the basis for Basil Gogos' painting
on the cover of Warren 1, and a poster by Will Eisner
using the same artwork was published by Warren,
making it, ironically, the most "definitive" rendition
of the character, even though it was never intended
to represent him in the first place.] W 12-5 "The
Jewel" (B&W Tones, retouched, wrongly dated as
3/16/50)
512. 3/19/50. ("Marooned") [Parodied in 553] W 12-12 "Carri-
on" (B&W Tones, retouched, wrongly dated as 3/18/50)
513. 3/26/50. (The Island)
514. 4/2/50. ("Water") W 13-26 "Water" (B&W Tones, wrongly
dated as 6/22/47)
515. 4/9/50. ("Rescue") W 12-19 (B&W Tones, retouched)
[Parodied in 553]
516. 4/16/50. ("Taxes And The Spirit") W 6-59 "Taxes And The
Spirit" (B&W Tones, retouched, splash redrawn for
the never-published Harvey 3 [features a 1965 Income
Tax form] but published in this version for the first
time) [Parodied in 553]
517. 4/23/50. "My Day at the Zoo" W 14-33 "A Day at the Zoo"
(B&W Wash, retouched)
518. 4/30/50. (Wanted, Dangerous Job) K 17-11 (B&W Zip, re-
touched)
519. 5/17/50. ("Pito") [This story was written and drawn by Andre
Le Blanc in 1948 for inclusion in the never-published
second issue of Kewpies Comics. The original version
was 6 pages long and, like the Pito feature in the first
Kewpies, it starred Pito and his Uncle Tolo and was
set in South America. To convert it into a Spirit
Section, Tolo's sombrero was whited out and replaced
with a turban and he was renamed Abu Ram. Pito
became Li'l Pandit and the whole story was displaced
to India. There was an abortive attempt made (in the
Next Week box of 4/30/50 and in the third panel of
page 1) to transform the South American leopard into
an Indian tiger, but the idea was abandoned as being
too much work, leaving some inconsistencies. The
first page, top tier of page 2 and last panel of page 7
consist of a framing sequence by Eisner, drawn in
1950]
520. 5/14/50. ("The Links Robbery") [refried in 619] W 13-12
"The Robbery" (B&W Tones, retouched)
521. 5/21/50. ("Big Arky") W 12-57 (B&W Wash, retouched)
522. 5/28/50. (The Good Old Days) [This story was written
by Jules Feiffer and drawn by Phillip "Tex"
Blaisdell in 1948 for inclusion in the never-pub-
lished second issue of Baseball Comics. The
original version was 6 pages long and, like the
"Good Old Days" feature in the first issue of
Baseball, it consisted of narration by "Pop"
Flye, illustrated with pictures of a true, histor-
ical ball game. To convert it into a Spirit Sec-
tion, Flye was pasted over and became Dolan,
narrating the story to Sammy. The first two
pages, top two tiers of page 3 and bottom tier
on page 7 consist of a framing sequence by
Eisner, drawn in 1950.]
523. 6/4/50. ("Alligator Farm") K 17-18 (B&W Zip, re-
touched)
524. 6/11/50. ("Sammy the Explorer")
525. 6/18/50. ("Willum and The Baron") [This story is a re-
fried version, substituting Willum for Nubbin,
The Spirit for John Law, etc., of an unpublished
1948 daily strip by Eisner.]
526. 6/25/50. ("The Census Taker") K 20-40 "Census '50"
(B&W Tones)
527. 7/2/50. ("The Spirit of '76 [of 1950, or: Tyler Trembly's
Moment of Glory]") W 16-12 "The Moment
of Glory" (B&W Wash)
528. 7/9/50. ("The S.S. Imperial or: Introducing Darling
O'Shea")
529. 7/16/50. ("The Desert") [Parodied in 553]
530. 7/23/50. (The Whittler) W 14-5 "Dick Whittler" (B&W
Tones, retouched)
531. 7/30/50. ("Woody's Diner") W 14-12 "The Chase"
(B&W Tones, retouched)
532. 8/6/50. ("The Investigation") W 14-19 "Investigation"
(B&W Tones, retouched) [Parodied in 553]
533. 8/13/50. "The Saga of Old 78" [This story is a cross
between an adaptation of the popular children's
book "The Little Engine Who Could" and the
19th Century American folk song "The Wreck
of Old 97"]
534. 8/20/50. "The First Man" W 14-65 "The First Man"
(B&W Tones, retouched)
535. 8/27/50. ("Camp Wachooabee")
536. 9/3/50. ("Cape Cod Vacation") K 17-25 (B&W Zip,
retouched)
537. 9/10/50. ("Teacher's Pet") W 14-41 "Teacher's Pet I"
(B&W Tones, retouched)
538. 9/17/50. "The Story of Sam . . . The Saucer That Wan-
ted To Fly" H 2/5 "The Story of Sam . . .

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHECKLIST

("Title")	My title for an untitled Section.	(B&W HT)	Black & white halftone of original Section.	(C)	4-Colour process, similar to orig.
"Title"	Title or headline on original splash; title given to reprint.	(B&W LS)	Black & white line shot of original Section.	(Recoloured)	Full-process colour, unlike orig.
(Title)	Title given in the post-war "Next Week" box.	(B&W Proof)	Black & white from original or retouched art or photostat.	(Retouched)	Minor changes in artwork.
0/0	Issue no./Story no. [Spirit stories only; others ignored].	(B&W Tones)	Black & white with flat tones.	(Redrawn)	Major changes in artwork.
0 - 0	Issue no. - page no. [only used on titles with page numbers given].	(B&W Wash)	Black & white with wash tones.	(Refried)	Same story, much dialogue same, names may be changed, new art.
		(B&W Zip)	Black & white with zipatone.	(Reprinted)	Same art & story. A Framed reprint has a new framing sequence & some original panels deleted.

539. 9/24/50. "The Saucer That Wanted To Fly" (C) "Sound" (The Comic Book Artist) CM 10 "Sound" (B&W Zip, retouched, last page has all panels individually cropped short, then whole page is blown up to same height as others, making image area 1/2 inch wider than other pages in story) W 10-43 "Sound" (B&W and Blue Tones, heavily retouched, splash page rearranged and given many added sound effects)
540. 10/1/50. ("The Big Win" (Bargain In Murder) W 14-57 "The Big Win" (B&W Tones, retouched)
541. 10/8/50. ("O'Shea's Uncle")
542. 10/15/50. ("Lizzy's Boys")
543. 10/22/50. ("Rudy the Barber") (The Great Haircut) [This story is loosely based on a Ring Lardner short story - which is uncredited - called "The Haircut"] H 2/4 (C)
544. 10/29/50. ("The Halloween Spirit of 1950 - Daughters of American Witch Hunters") [Parodied in 553] (Letter from Viet-Nam)
545. 11/5/50. ("Ellen Dolan for Mayor") [Refried in 620]
546. 11/12/50. ("La Cucaracha") H 2/7 (C)
547. 11/19/50. ("The Song of Little Willum") [Parodied in 553]
548. 11/26/50. ("The Gritt Brothers") W 6-43 "The Winnah!" (B&W Tones)
549. 12/3/50. ("Snowbound") K 17-36 (B&W Zip, retouched)
550. 12/10/50. ("Sammy and Willum Take Over")
551. 12/17/50. ("The Christmas Spirit [of 1950 or: Darling's First Christmas])
552. 12/24/50. ("The New Year's Spirit of 1950/51 or: Feiffer Kills Eisner") [A deadline crisis caused this story to be hastily concocted in place of the terminally late Section 554 (which thus ran one week late). Pages 1, 2, 6 and 7 are by Eisner; pages 3, 4 and 5 are by Feiffer - and they contain parodies of several Sections from 1950, namely: 512, 515, 516, 529, 532, 544 and 548]
553. 12/31/50. ("Time Stop") [This Section, although ostensibly a New Year's tale, was printed one week late due to deadline problems.] W 10-51 "A Time Stop" (B&W and Blue Tones, retouched)
554. 1/7/51. ("Rife Magazine" Panels 1 (B&W HT, splash page only)
555. 1/14/51. ("Future Death") K 18-21 "Future Death" (B&W Wash, retouched)
556. 1/21/51. ("The Meanest Man in The World" W 10-75 "The Meanest Man in The World" (B&W Tones, retouched)
557. 1/28/51. ("Reprinted Showdown with The Octopus") [This is a framed reprint of 378. The first page and the last tier on page 7 are new art]
558. 2/4/51. ("Octopus Back in U.S.A" W 10-59 "The Octopus Is Back" (B&W Tones, retouched)
559. 2/11/51. ("To The Spirit with Love" K 17-43 "To The Spirit with Love" (B&W Zip, retouched)
560. 2/18/51. ("Reprinted Portier Fortune") [This is a framed reprint of 340 with a total of two new pages of art]
561. 2/25/51. ("Refried Death Is My Destiny") [This is a refried version of 123] W 10-21 "Death Is My Destiny" (B&W Tones, retouched)
562. 3/4/51. ("The Case of the Double Jones" ("Reprinted Doppelganger") [This is a framed reprint of 386. The splash page and last tier of page 7 are new art.]
563. 3/11/51. ("Darling and The Octopus")
564. 3/18/51. ("Reprinted Competition") [This is a framed reprint of 375. There is a total of 1 2/3 pages of new art.] FH 5/3 "Damosels in Distress" (C)
565. 3/25/51. ("The Last Prowl of Lucifer T. Mephisto") FH 4/1 "The Last Prowl of Mephisto" (C)
566. 4/1/51. ("Walkalong Haggerty") FH 5/1 "Dragnet For Johnny Buffalo" (C)

Sections 568 through 583 - and 585: Scripts by Will Eisner, Jules Feiffer or Klaus Nordling (most by the latter two). Art by Eisner, with extensive assists by Nordling and Jim Dixon. Lettering by Ben Oda or Sam Schwartz. Colouring by Chris Christiansen (?). [Christiansen was in the production department at American Visuals and may have also contributed to the artwork on these.] Section 584: Script by Jules Feiffer. Art by Jim Dixon, Al Wenzel, Don Perlin or (?).

568. 4/15/51. ("The \$50,000 Time Bomb") FH 2/4 "The \$50,000 Flim-Flam" (C) K 20-33 "Time Bomb" (B&W Tones)
569. 4/22/51. ("Hobart The Hermit") W 10-67 "Hobart" (B&W Tones, retouched)
570. 4/29/51. ("Three Dolans") W 10-28 "Help Wanted" (B&W Tones)
571. 5/6/51. ("Here Are The Facts") K 17-50 (B&W Zip, retouched)
572. 5/13/51. ("Henry J. Timeclock") W 14-49 "The Hero" (B&W Tones, retouched)
573. 5/20/51. ("P'Gell's Seventh Husband") [Note: this is really her ninth husband, despite the title.] FH 2/2 "Contraband Queen" (C), K 18-5 "The 7th Husband" (B&W Wash, retouched)
574. 5/27/51. ("King Wang")
575. 6/3/51. ("The Thing In The Jungle")
576. 6/10/51. ("Wanchu")
577. 6/17/51. ("Khyber Bill")
578. 6/24/51. ("School Is Out")
579. 7/1/51. (A Ticket Home)
580. 7/8/51. ("The Island of Pearls") FH 5/4 "The Loot of Robinson Crusoe" (C)
581. 7/15/51. ("Heat [in the Alley]") (Ooh! Murray!) W 10-7 "Heat" (B&W Tones, retouched)
582. 7/22/51. "Hospital Zone - Quiet" FH 5/2 "The Target Man in 16-A" (C), W 10-14 "Quiet" (B&W Tones, Octopus added to splash, redrawn in parts, some new dialogue)
583. 7/29/51. ("Veta Barra")
584. 8/5/51. (The Return of The Narcissus)
585. 8/12/51. ("The Foxtrot Poll")

Sections 586 through 634: Scripts by Jules Feiffer. Art by a number of unknown American Visuals staff artists, including (probably) Jim Dixon, Al Wenzel, Don Perlin, etc. Two distinctly different pencillers are evident, but as yet no one has admitted to doing the work, for reasons which should be obvious upon viewing the art. Lettering by Sam Schwartz or Ben Oda. Colouring by Chris Christiansen (?).

586. 8/19/51. "Night on the Waterfront" FH 1/4 "Panic on Pier 8" (C)
587. 8/26/51. ("Deacon Mantis")
588. 9/2/51. "Dance of the Bullfighter" FH 4/3 "The Sword and The Savage" (C)
589. 9/9/51. "Psychoanalyzing The Spirit"
590. 9/16/51. (The Imposter) F 1/1 "The Case of the Counterfeit Killer" (C)
591. 9/23/51. ("Stony Keefer")
592. 9/30/51. "The Decline and Fall of the Roamin' Umpire"
593. 10/7/51. (The Town That Committed Suicide)
594. 10/14/51. ("Tiny Buttrix")
595. 10/21/51. "The Spirit's Own Purposeful Guide to Clean Living"
596. 10/28/51. ("Young Marvin") FH 1/3 "The Plot of the Perfect Crime" (C)
597. 11/4/51. (The Secret of Claymore Castle) FH 1/2 "The Curse of Claymore Castle" (C)
598. 11/11/51. "Vote for Scallion"
599. 11/18/51. ("Refried Bucket of Blood") [This is a refried version of 316] FH 2/3 "The Case of The Baleful Buddah" (C)

THE SPIRIT



LETTERS

IMPRESSED WITH CITY PORTFOLIO

City: A Narrative Portfolio is yet another result of Mr. Eisner's personal renaissance--the complete awakening of enthusiasm for the graphic narrative media that he has spoken of many times in the last three years. *City* is a return to the kind of graphic narrative that William Hogarth moulded into an art form, and which was such an important step in the evolution of sequential art (see *The Early Comic Strip*, by David Kunzle, University of California Press).

And yet, as well as a return, this is also a re-formation of the Hogarthian narrative in the way that each plate contains two small glimpses of the distant past, a poem, and a representation of the 20th century. Perhaps the best and most Hogarthian plate is *Family*; so much is happening here, so much is implied about life, so many emotions evoked that I am at a loss to think of a comparison either with the fine arts or with, say, the novel. It took Dickens many thousands of words to come close to this one statement of Mr. Eisner's.

Some of the poetry bears witness to the care taken with this production. Poetry says as much as possible in the smallest possible space by the careful selection of words; the poetry of *City* thus complements the pictures.

As to *The Spirit Magazine*, it goes from strength to strength. Ms. Yronwode's checklist is another careful piece of work. The early reprints are very welcome; the drabness of Wood's stuff shows that fine graphics do not always make up for lack of enthusiasm. And the new material... well... what can I say? Except thanks.

John F. McShane
17 Fleming Rd, Bishopston, Strathclyde,
PA7 5HW, Scotland

Readers unfamiliar with the new *City* portfolio can see it offered on page 6 of this issue.

MORE! MORE! MORE!

Just last week I was living the peaceful, impoverished, and sporadically hard-working life of a would-be science fiction writer. Comics/comix were some-

thing mostly outside my ken. Then last Sunday one of my best friends came in, started pulling things out of bags, and announced that he was going to wreck my writing schedule for at least a week.

That was a gross underestimate--what he laid on me was the entire Warren and Kitchen Sink run of *The Spirit* (minus the two original undergrounds). Well, sir, I dived into them, and didn't even come up for air until 'long about Thursday. By now I'm starting to get past the sheer enjoyment of the stories to see the craftsmanship of the storytelling--and being astounded all over again. Wonderful stuff! Simply wonderful!

You've heard all this before, I'm sure; maybe someday I'll recover my critical judgment to the point of writing a more literate reaction (for what that would be worth from a virtual stranger to the medium). But for now all I can say is "More! More! More!" And the more of *The Spirit* himself per issue, the better. Will Eisner must be one of God's own madmen. Bless him and all of you who bring us his visions.

Carolyn R. Meredith
221 S. Barnard, State College, PA 16801

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE SENDS KISS

I just found out about your beautiful *Spirit Magazine* (little late, ain't it?) I happened to stop in a book store on the north side of Chicago and discovered my "main man" Denny Colt. I now have most of the Warren and Kitchen magazines. Here's my subscription check.

Give Will Eisner a big kiss from this beautiful blonde (me).

Diane Wiet
1800 S. Grove, Berwyn, Illinois 60402



SPIRIT REDISCOVERED

I can't remember what first attracted me to *The Spirit*--maybe it was all the praise that I had read, or maybe it was the fact that a character could still live on in reprint form over 25 years after the strip's demise.

Not that I hadn't heard of Eisner before I picked up *The Spirit* No.17. Far from it. Eisner's work with Lou Fine at Quality and Fox had surprised me with an elegance and sophistication that was rarely evinced elsewhere in the comics of that period, but the few examples of Eisner's *Spirit* that I had seen left me unimpressed. Too cartoony. Of course this opinion was formed during my illustrator/realist period when I felt every

FREE SPIRIT CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY: We will run your ad absolutely FREE, but please try to keep your ad under 25 words. We reserve the right to edit ads to fit. Ads will NOT be repeated automatically. Resubmit for each issue if you want your ad or portions of it rerun. Ads must be related to *The Spirit*. Send ads to: Spirit Classifieds, Box 7-S, Princeton, Wis. 54968.

SPIRIT ITEMS WANTED

Spirit Bags No.1 and No.3. Send asking price to CTA 1 Jerry Edwards, P.O. Box 498, Naval Security Group Activity, FPO New York 09518.

Spirit Bags No.1 and No.3. I will pay any reasonable price. Michael Henderson, Rt. 1, Morgantown, Kentucky 42261

Spirit Bags No.1 thru 4, Spirit Special, the two Kitchen Sink "undergrounds" and any other Spirit-related items. W. Sheehan, 23 Halston Close, London SW116RH England.

Spirit sections 3/16/41 and 8/23/42. Pat Wan, 40 Amber Circle, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 2J1 Canada.

Spirit Bags No.2, 3, and 4. Todd Goldberg, 28 Ellis Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006.

Kitchen Spirits No.1 & 2, Warren Spirits No. 1, 3, and 5. Spirit Bags 1-4. Send list and condition to Stanley Wedeking, Box 188, Dale, Indiana 47523.

Any Spirit except No. 2, 3, 17, 18, & 24. Graham Brisben, 3 Glenview Knoll, Rural Rt.6, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Will buy any Warren Spirits No.1-16. Also want Spirit bags. Will pay reasonable price. Tom Stewart, 4320 West Ruby, Pasco, Washington 99301.

Will trade for set of Spirit No.1 thru 22 and Spirit sections. I have Dungeon and Dragon game, Marvels, paperbacks, comic strips, etc. Write: Mike Walker, 253 Butter-nut Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60439.

SPIRIT ITEMS FOR SALE

Will Eisner's P.S. Magazines (mint) 182-184, 187-188, 190-191 (1968) each \$8.50. No. 194, 196, 198, 202-203 (1969) each \$8. 209 (1970), 220, 224 (1971) each \$7.50. A. Oestreich, 340 Warren Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

Quality Spirit No.14 (coverless), Police Comics No.7 with Spirit (coverless), Quality No.13 (1948), Tab sections 2/29/48, 2/16/47, regular-size sections 7/6/52, 10/27/46, 9/7/47, 11/24/46 (fair to good). Prefer to trade these for other Spirit items. Terry McLaughlin, 110% West 11th, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

58 Tab Spirit sections (Philadelphia Bulletin) from 1946 to 1951 from poor to good condition. Will accept any reasonable offer. W.T. Ranney, 709 Triphammer Rd, Apt. 1-2A, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Will Eisner self-portrait button. Full color. 2 1/2 inch pinback. \$1.50 postpaid. Inquire for full list of 100 cartoonist buttons. Hollybrook Graphics, Rt.1 Box 329-S, Princeton, Wisconsin 54968.

Spirit Bag No.4, \$10; 1974 Comic Art Convention Book (5 pg Eisner article with illos), \$4; Warren Spirit No.1-3 (set) \$17; Eisner's True Haunted Stories and Ghosts (softcover with Spirit) \$4; America's Space Vehicles (1962 hardcover w/ dustjacket) by Eisner, \$20. All V.F. or better. Shipped postpaid. D. Marden, Box 253, Rutland, Mass 01543.

good artist had to draw a la Neal Adams. But for some reason I sent away for *The Spirit* No.17...and saw my conceptions of a comics artist blown away.

Now, when I occasionally lose artistic drive or the imagination turns off, I take some time to read through my copies of the Warren and Kitchen *Spirits*. It's always a pleasure to rediscover the magic of Eisner's creation.

Kurt S. Olsson

351 Silver Hills Rd, Concord, MA 01742

FINEST EISNER SHOWCASE YET

I'm overjoyed at the apparent success of your *Spirit* series. The checklist, the pre-war stories, the new serial, the beeyootiful wraparound covers and, not incidentally, the post-war *Spirits* make this the finest Eisner showcase yet! I also agree with other fans who have suggested that *The Spirit* would make a great movie. In a recent interview in the *Comics Journal*, Harlan Ellison spoke of a treatment he'd written for such a film. Any chance of our seeing an article on what happened to that project?

I'm not in the league with Terry Austin or Fred Hembeck, but enclosed is my version of *The Spirit* being welcomed into today's cinematic world.

Tim Cooper

3303 5th Ave.,

Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405



Thanks for the drawing, Tim. We do plan to do an article on what happened to *The Spirit* movie--as well as a separate project yet to be unveiled.

NO. 24 (BASICALLY) GREAT!

My joy and anticipation with each successive issue cannot be expressed. Will Eisner is a bright light in a medium so full of potential yet populated with workers with near-sighted vision. In the *Spirit* stories I move through the panels, walk from dimly-lit room to shadowy street corner, to wherever Eisner takes me.

First, the pre-war stories. Oh wow! This is pure Eisner. He seemed to be throwing his all into each story. All those crazy backgrounds! Though this is a younger, less polished Eisner, it is still great stuff!

Life On Another Planet has evolved from being a sketchy bit of fluff to a

fully fleshed-out graphic story. Each installment has gotten better, but finally part six! I opened to the splash page and pow! This is Will Eisner taking himself and his work seriously. The shadows, the depth, the atmosphere is back. And it is more than pretty surface drawings. The story-telling, the pacing, the movement from panel to panel--this is what comics are.

Page 12 [page 40] was the best you have drawn in years, Will. Nadia was beautifully rendered, yet moving effectively through the page. In the second to last panel I felt her breath on my face. Two pages later I swatted flies off my face. I ducked that shot on page 15. And of course I'm still wiping up the mess that the splash page left.

Now the complaints. First the cover. Very ineffective...but anything might be a letdown after No.23. Also, having seen the original *Spirit* section in which *Cargo* appeared, I could see that not only was the *Spirit* postage stamp stripped of its clever original impact, but the drawing put in its place was truly bad.

Overall, *Spirit* No. 24 was another great issue--better than any other current graphic work on the stands.

Tim Smith

Route 2 Box 40, Ava, Missouri 65608

WANTS GARISH COVERS

I have been reading *The Spirit* in reprint form for several years, though I had never seen it before Warren began publishing it. I certainly missed a lot coming up in the forties and fifties.

There are apparently plenty of readers who like the toned down cover paintings. However, I would like to see a garishly painted cover now and then. Most of the original comics had brightly colored covers, didn't they?

I agree with Mr. McConnell's letter about a possible hardback collection of *The Spirit*. Of course it would cost, but I would buy it. It should have plenty of color and be at least two inches thick.

I want to see *Lady Luck* in collected form too. I especially like fine, classy ladies and Klaus Nordling certainly created a neat one. I like the seams in her stockings. Make sure that comes through in all reprints.

Robert D. Hull

501 N. 1st Avenue, Maiden, N.C. 28650

What do you think of this issue's cover, Robert? There are books underway here and abroad concerning Will Eisner's collected works. Watch this magazine for announcements. As for *Lady Luck*, see the inside back cover for details of a brand new collection.

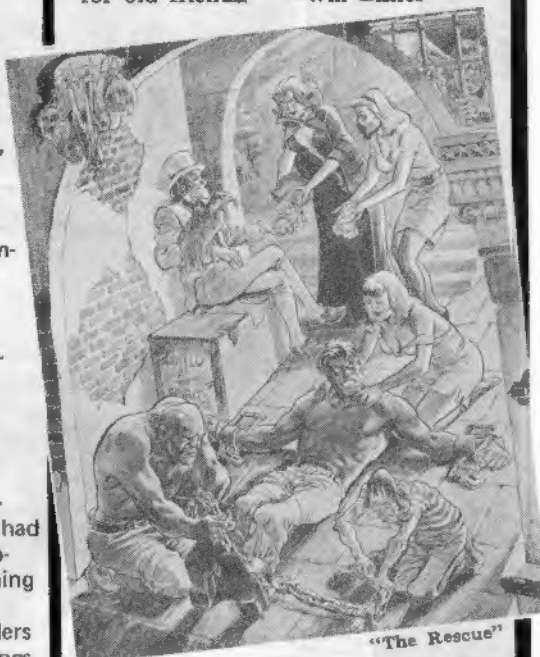
Mail your letters to:

WILL EISNER'S SPIRIT MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 7
PRINCETON, WISCONSIN 54968

WILL EISNER'S

SPIRIT PORTFOLIO

"The ten plates that constitute this portfolio represent the essence of *The Spirit*... This undertaking was an effort to condense the hundreds of story situations that made up *The Spirit's* adventures. In that respect, this portfolio is for the *Spirit* fan. For in preparing [these plates] I was creating a sort of elaborate gift of memory--a nostalgic thankyou for old friends." --Will Eisner



- Ten full-color plates printed on highest quality paper. Each plate dramatically captures the *Spirit* in a classic confrontation or situation.
- A bonus 11th plate, in black & white, showing pencil roughs by Eisner.
- A 12th sheet featuring a personal introduction by Will Eisner, with color photos.
- Housed in a heavy-duty squareback binding, cloth-bound board 1/8 inch thick, with stamped cover and drawings on the inside covers.
- Each portfolio is numbered and autographed by Eisner.

Remaining *Spirit* Portfolios are \$35 plus \$2 shipping via insured U.P.S. (foreign orders include \$5 postage).

HOLLYBROOK GRAPHICS
Rt.1 Box 329-S
Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

CITY

A NARRATIVE PORTFOLIO

Will EISNER



- Not content to create an "ordinary" portfolio, Will Eisner, in his *City: A Narrative Portfolio*, has combined his stunning artwork with his characteristic story-telling.
- Each large panoramic plate is accompanied by a deckle-edge fold-over with Eisner's narrative poetry and smaller drawings.
- Each of these 6 large plates is printed on arctic white paper with an additional color, simulating an actual etching.
- The plates are held in a sturdy folder, on matching paper, with a striking 3-color cover.
- Only 1,500 total portfolios exist. Over 600 of these have been pre-sold to European clients, leaving less than 900 for the entire American market. Sold on a first-come basis.
- Each portfolio is numbered, and the first plate is autographed by Will Eisner. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.
- Price is \$17.50, plus \$2 for insured shipment/sturdy package.

A Portfolio that only Will Eisner could create!

HOLLYBROOK GRAPHICS

Route 1 Box 329 • Princeton, Wisconsin 54968

Please send me _____ edition(s) of Will Eisner's *CITY: A Narrative Portfolio*. I have enclosed \$17.50 plus \$2 for shipping and insurance for each portfolio.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



CAPTURED

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

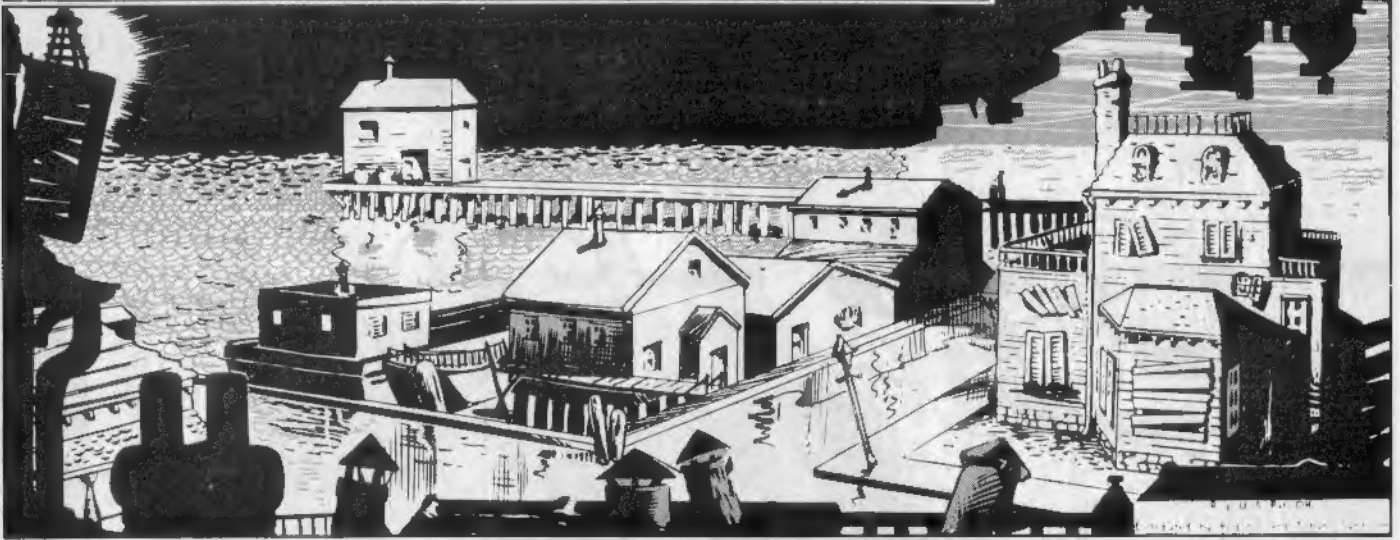
The **SPIRIT**



BY *Will Eisner*

FROM THE BLEAK DESOLATION OF **WILDWOOD CEMETERY**, WHERE ONCE THE WORLD BURIED DENNY COLT, **THE SPIRIT** WAGES A RELENTLESS BATTLE AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD... ALONE, SAVE FOR **EBONY** HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND, THE FAMOUS CRIME FIGHTER PLACES HIS COURAGE AND SKILL ON THE SCALES OF JUSTICE...

THE WATERFRONT IS ORDINARILY A DESOLATE AND FORBIDDING PLACE AT MIDNIGHT ... BUT TONIGHT THE SILENT PIERS ON WEST RIVER SEEM TO WEAR A CLOAK OF EXPECTANT EVIL THAT EVEN THE DISTANT FOG-HORNS CANNOT PIERCE ...



ACROSS THE SLIPPERY COBBLE-
STONE SPRINTS A FAMILIAR
FIGURE ...



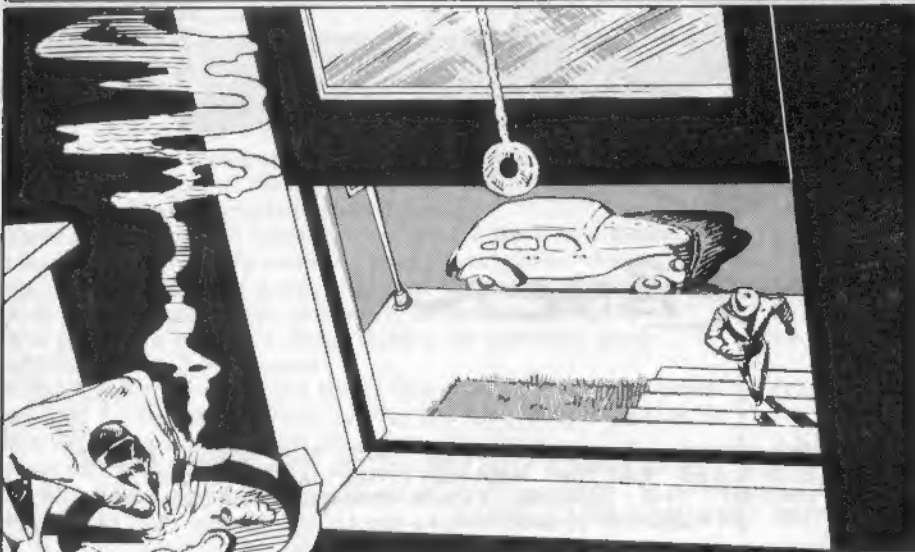
O.K., BOSS .. HE'S
COMIN' ... YEAH, 'JES'
PASSED MY LOOKOUT ...



AT ONCE THE LIGHTS OF AN
OLD WATERFRONT HOUSE GO
OUT ... AND A MOMENT LATER
THE SPIRIT ROUNDS THE
CORNER ...

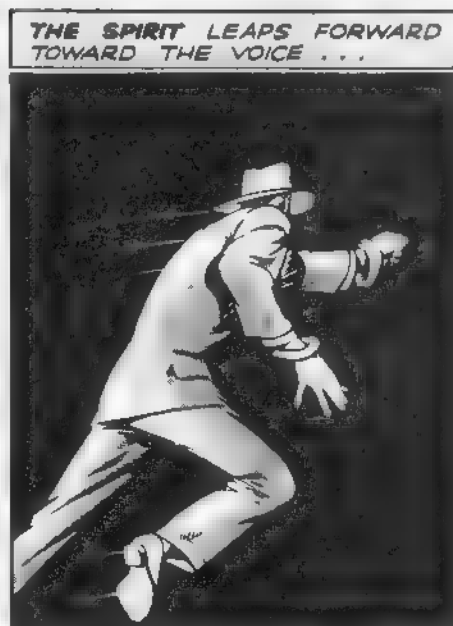
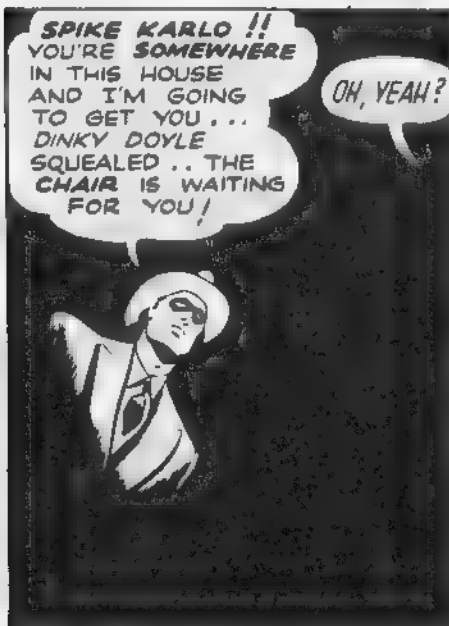


FOR A MOMENT HE PAUSES .. SURVEYS THE ANTIQUATED
MANSION AND SLOWLY CLIMBS THE CROOKED STEPS ...



... SOMEWHERE INSIDE, A MAN
CHUCKLES NOISELESSLY AS THE
GREAT CRIME FIGHTER STEPS
INTO THE VAST DARKNESS OF
THE HALL ...





THROUGHOUT THE WAITING UNDERWORLD THE WORD IS PASSED ... THE SPIRIT HAS BEEN CAPTURED THE SPIRIT HAS BEEN CAPTURED



THEY CAUGHT THE SPIRIT!

AT LAST!

THROUGH THE SLUMS..INTO EVERY CORNER OF THE REALM OF CRIME THE NEWS IS ECHOED...



DID'JA HEAR THE LATEST...? THE BIG BOYS GOT THE SPIRIT!

GREAT! NOW WE GOT A FREE HAND IN THIS TOWN!!

AND AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..



THE UNDERWORLD HAS CAPTURED THE SPIRIT COMMISSIONER DOLAN...

WHAT!!? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THERE ISN'T A GANGSTER IN TOWN TOUGH OR SMART ENOUGH!!

THAT'S JUST IT... IT WASN'T JUST ONE GANGSTER... THE WHOLE UNDERWORLD COMBINED TO CAPTURE HIM... "TOADY THE RAT" TIPPED ME OFF... LOOKS LIKE THE END OF OUR NEMESIS, THE SPIRIT... AINTCHA GLAD, CHIEF?



YEH..

'SMATTER CHIEF? DON'TCHA FEEL WELL?



YEAH... YEAH... I..I'M JUST GOING HOME EARLY TODAY...

LATER, AT HOME...



'EVENING, ELLEN.. HEY, WHAT'RE Y'CRYING FOR?... AND EBONY... YOU HERE?

YASSUH, MIST' DOLAN SUH...

SOMETHIN' DREADFUL DONE HAPPEN TO D'SPIRIT... HE GONE TO KETCH D'KILLER O' PINKY PAULER!



...AND WAS HIMSELF CAPTURED BY THE UNDERWORLD... THIS IS TOUGH ON YOU, ELLEN. I KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HIM...

OH DADDY, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO... THE POLICE...

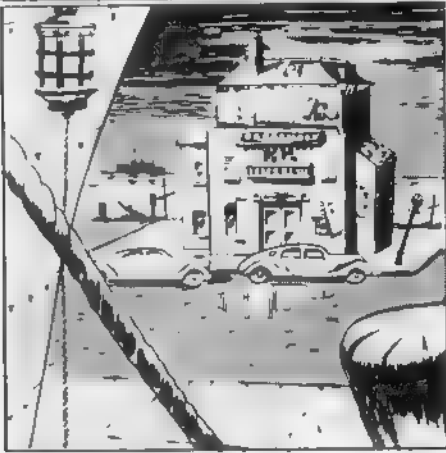


POLICE?? IF I ORDER OUT THE POLICE TO RESCUE THE SPIRIT, IT WILL PLACE ME IN.. A SPOT.. MUST FIGURE OUT ANOTHER WAY...



..AND WHILE YO' FIGGERS AH'M GONNA SAVE HIM MYSELF!

MEANWHILE, LET US RETURN TO THE OLD HOUSE ON THE WATER FRONT.. CAR AFTER CAR GLIDES THROUGH THE DRIZZLING RAIN.. AS GANGSTERS FROM ALL OVER THE CITY ARRIVE TO VIEW THE SPIRIT.. IN CAPTIVITY ...



CONGRATULATIONS, ROX.. WHEN RE YA GONNA KILL HIM?

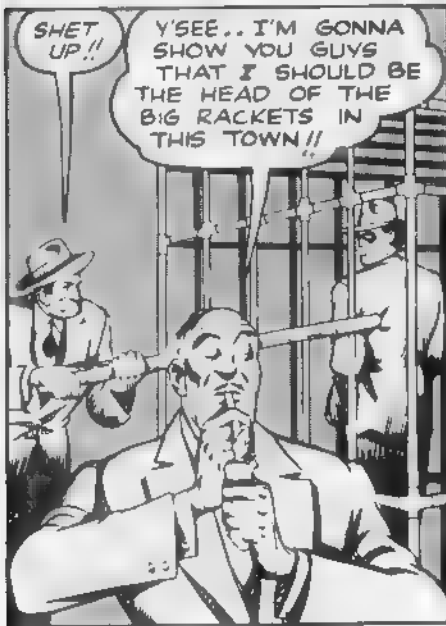
SOON AS EVERY MOBSTER IN TOWN TAKES A LOOK AT HIM ...

YOU MIGHT CHARGE ADMISSION.. AND PERHAPS GIVE AWAY DISHES ...



SHET UP!!

Y'SEE.. I'M GONNA SHOW YOU GUYS THAT I SHOULD BE THE HEAD OF THE BIG RACKETS IN THIS TOWN!!



SO.. YOU ALWAYS TRIED TO GET US BEHIND BARS... NOW WE'VE GOT YOU BEHIND BARS! HA..HA..HA..HA..

HAW.. HAW.. HAW..



WHY YOU... I'LL ... EASY JOE, I'LL KILL HIM WHEN IT'S TIME TO! THAT'S RIGHT.. MUST NOT FEED THE LIONS



SUDDENLY...

O.K. MEN! SURROUND THE BUILDING! WE MUST RESCUE THE SPIRIT!

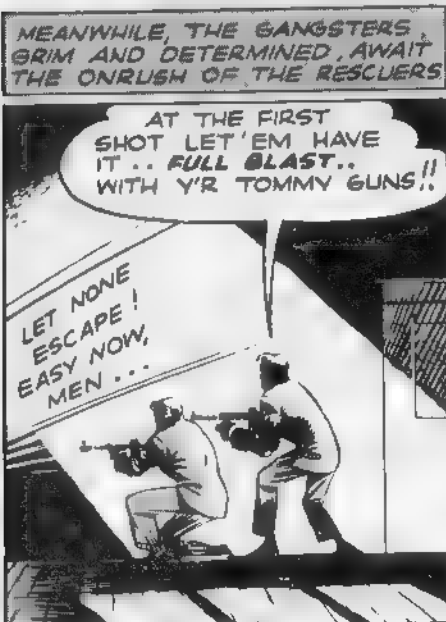


OH.. SO YOU'VE GOT A GANG, EH SPIRIT? HOW MANY?

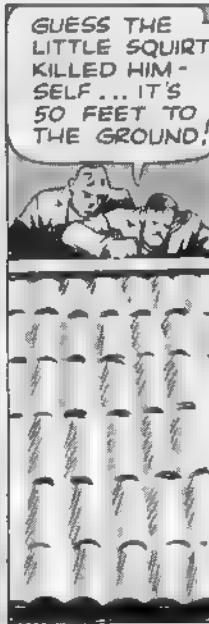
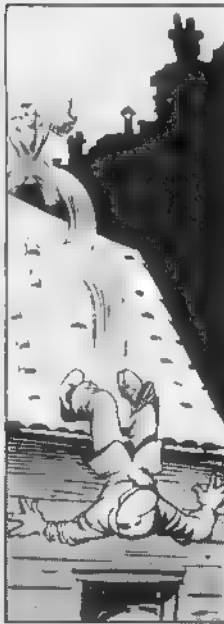
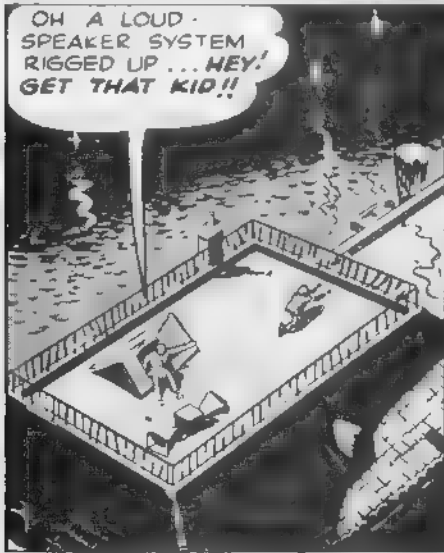
OH SURE.. ABOUT A MILLION OR SO ...



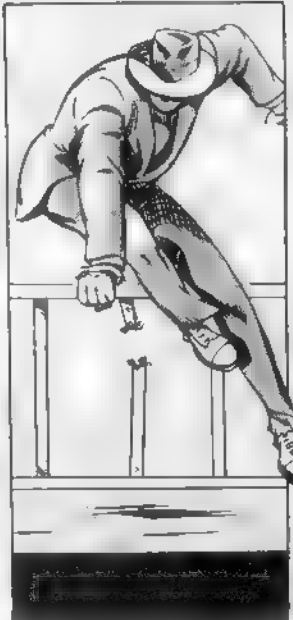
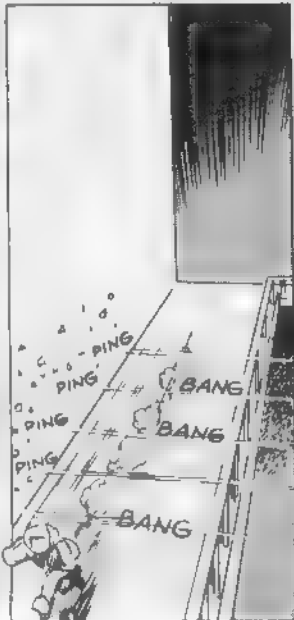
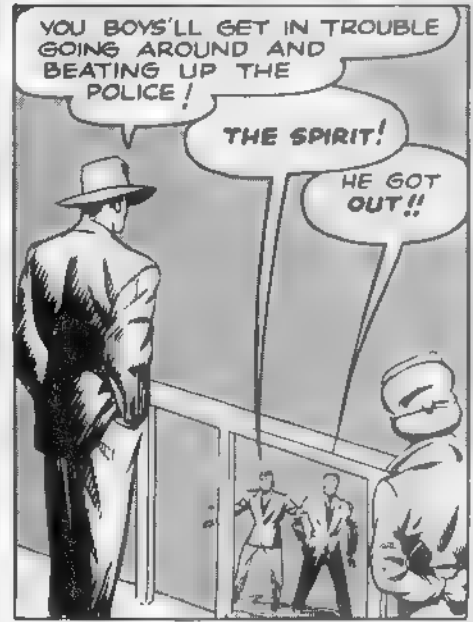
FROM EVERY WINDOW COME SOUNDS OF ANGRY RESCUERS...
THE GANGSTERS HUDDLE FEARFULLY IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM...



FRIGHTENED BEYOND CAUTION,
EBONY FLEES ACROSS THE ROOF.



AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT
IN THE STREET BELOW...





AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

HELLO! THIS IS POLICE HEAD...
OH, HELLO, CHIEF... Y'GOT
SPIKE KARLO, THE KILLER ??...
WOW... AND WHO ?? **ROX
MALON** AND HIS GANG ??
ALL BY YOURSELF ?? ...
WE'LL SEND A SQUAD
DOWN AT ONCE !!



NOW I WONDER
WHAT COMMISSIONER
DOLAN IS DOING
OUT THERE ?!



BACK AT THE WATERFRONT,
THE SPIRIT, **DOLAN** AND **EBONY**
WATCH FROM A SECLUDED SPOT
AS THE LAST OF THE POLICE
WAGONS CART THE GANGSTERS
AWAY ...

THANKS
FOR COMING
TO MY RESCUE,
DOLAN!

ME RESCUE
YOU ?... POOH...
HRRMPH... I. EW
I WAS JUST
PASSING BY...



HMPF!

CONFIDENTIALLY,
EBONY... **DOLAN**
IS AN AWFULLY
POOR LIAR!



... AND WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU ?

AHM
PEEVED!



FO' ONCE IN MAH LIFE AH
GITS A CHANCE TO SAVE
YOU.. AN' WHAT HAPPEN ..
EVVY THING JES' GO TOPSY
TURVY AND YO' END UP
BY SAVIN' ME!



COOT GALLUS

THE SPIRIT

By **WILL WEISNER**

AH, YES, FOLKS! ONE BIG BLANKET OF GLOOM HOVERS OVER CENTRAL CITY TONIGHT! THE ELECTIONS HAVE COME AND GONE... HONEST JIM GASSBAG, CENTRAL CITY'S 4TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, IS OUT AND ONE COOT GALLUS IS IN!! THAT IS THE NAME THAT WAS SCRIBBLED INTO THE OPTION BLANK ON THE BALLOTS!

THIS IS THE BIGGEST BLOW SUFFERED BY CENTRAL CITY POLITICS IN 25 YEARS!

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

YEAH... BUT WHO IS COOT GALLUS?... WHERE IS HE? HE DIDN'T EVEN RUN FOR THE OFFICE!

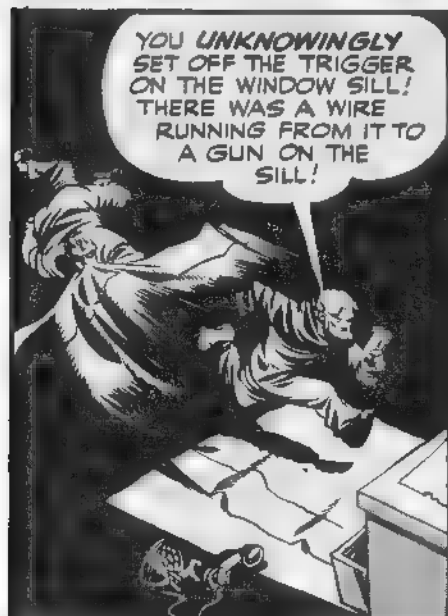
















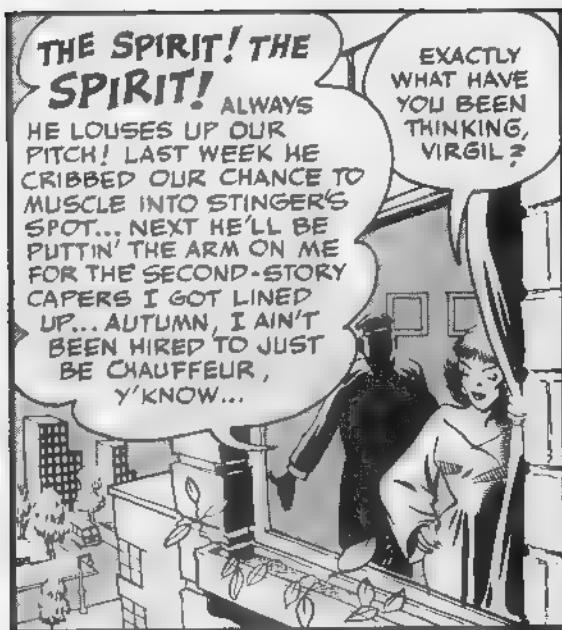
The Return of Autumn Mews

**ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE**

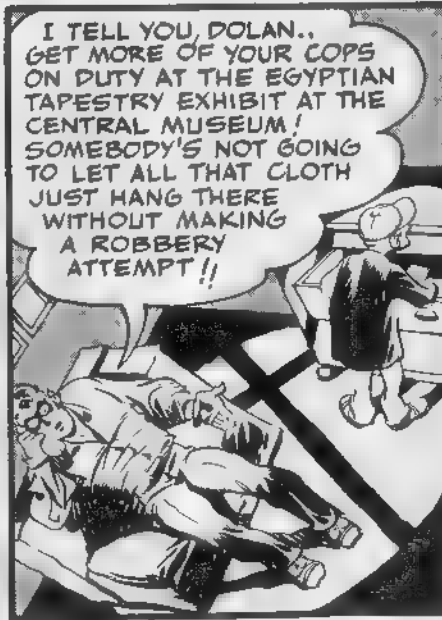


BY WILL EISNER

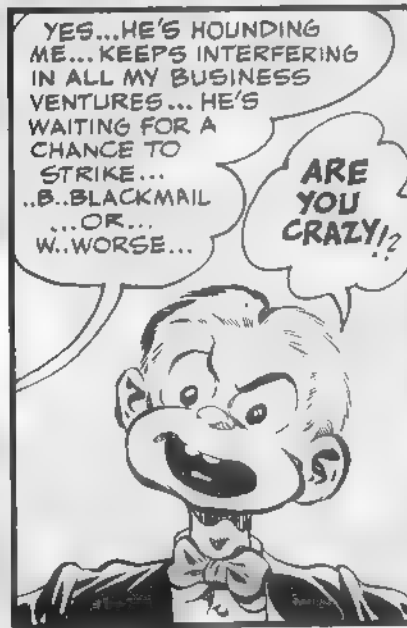
To the north of Central City, on a hill overlooking the bustling metropolis, lies abandoned Wildwood Cemetery. Here, hidden in the tangled weedy growth, is the hideaway of the Spirit. Accepted by the police as a friendly 'outlaw' and feared by the underworld, his true identity is still a mystery. Who is really the man behind the mask? Every so often, someone tries to find out...

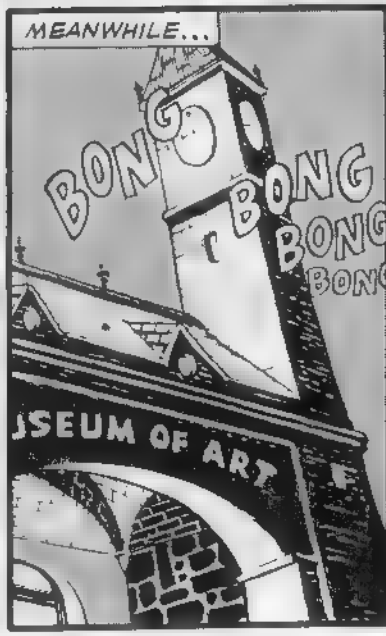
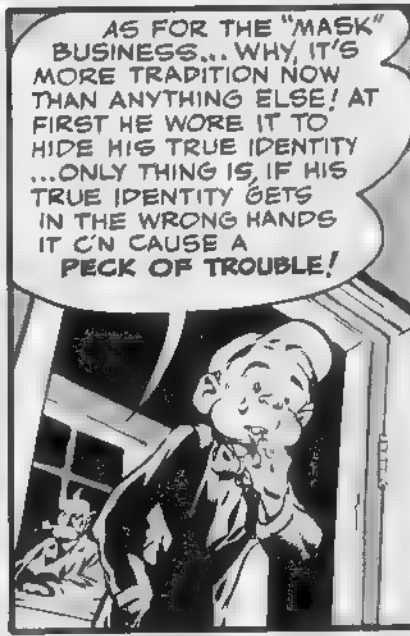
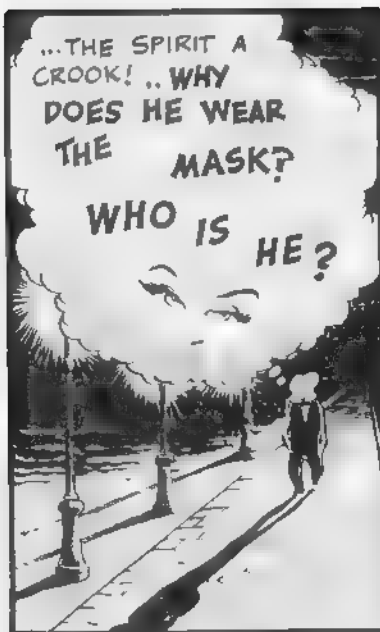


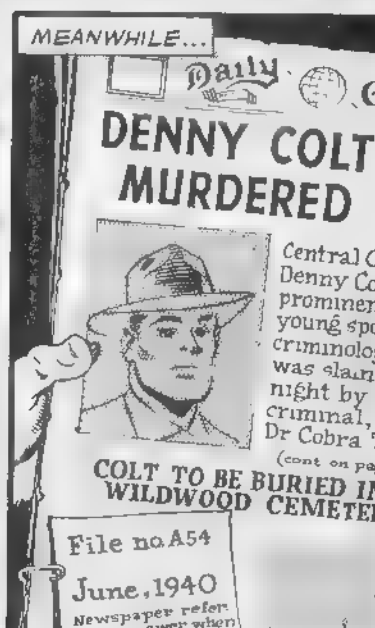
AND SO...

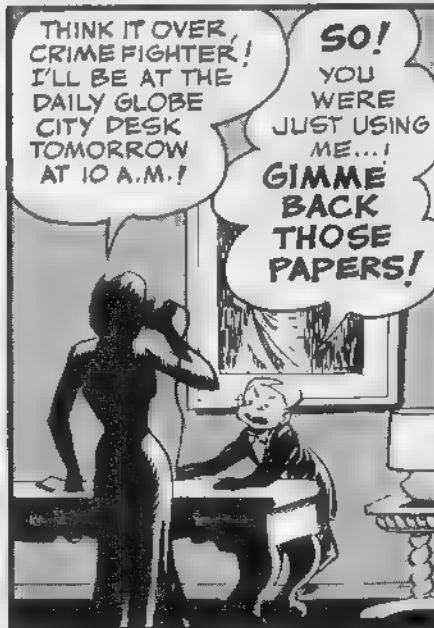


LATER... 8:29 P.M., ROYAL TOWERS, APT. 14-A



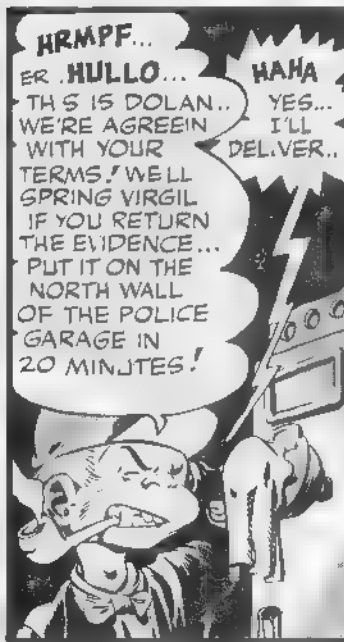








I...GOTTA...DO.
SOMETHIN..
SOMETHIN'.



HRMPF...
ER. HULLO...
THAT'S IS DOLAN...
WE'RE AGREEIN'
WITH YOUR
TERMS! WELL
SPRING VIRGIL
IF YOU RETURN
THE EVIDENCE...
PUT IT ON THE
NORTH WALL
OF THE POLICE
GARAGE IN
20 MINUTES!

HABA
YES...
I'LL
DELIVER..



TWENTY MINUTES
LATER

HERE IT IS, DOLAN.
WHEN I GET HOME,
I'D BETTER FIND
VIRGIL THERE!

YOU
WILL.



FIVE MINUTES LATER...

HERE'S A
KEY... Y'GOT
TEN MINUTES
BEFORE THE
GUARD
RETURNS!

THANKS
K.I.D.



WEEEOOOO



...TO
AUTUMN MEWS
APARTMENT
FIRST...IT'S A
GINCH HE'LL
HEAD THERE...



MEANWHILE...APT. 14A

HELLO, VIRGIL.
I GOTCHA
SPRUNG!
...W. WHAT'S
WRONG...??
YOU DON'T
SEEM VERY
HAPPY...

YA
DOUBLE-
CROSSIN'
RAT!



YA CALL THAT
SPRINGIN' ME??

I AIN'T NO DOPE...
Y'TIPPED THE COPS SO
THEY'D GET ME ON
THE FLY... ONE LESS
MAN TO SPLIT WITH...
IS THAT HOW Y'RE
FIGGERIN'?

LOOK...OUT...THERE



NO...WAIT,
VIRGIL...
I...I DIDN'T
KNOW...I'M
STILL YOUR
PARTNER.

O.K...THEN
WE...
PARTNERS
TO THE END...
C'MON AND
GET ME,
COPPERS!



BLAM
RATATATAT



LATER... POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

SO AUTUMN
MEWS AND VIRGIL
ARE DEAD...TRIED
TO SHOOT IT OUT
WITH YOUR RIOT
SQUAD... Y'KNOW,
DOLAN...I'M SORT OF
SORRY FOR HER...

I CAN'T
FIGURE HOW
VIRGIL EVER
BROKE OUT...
MUSTA
BEEN AN
INS DE
JOB..

WELL,
WHOEVER
SPRUNG
VIRGIL
SURE
TURNED OUT
TO BE A
FRIEND OF
YOURS!

THE BIG HIT

LIFE ON WATER FINET CHAPTER 7



AM ROCCO
ROCCO, ROCCO!
YOU CAUSIN' ME
A LOTTA WORRY...
...A SIMPLE JOB
I GIVE YOU - TO
'ICE VITO. A
NOBODY A
LITTLE
NUTHIN'
'SIGH'



SO, YOU
COME BACK
HERE AND TELL
ME TO MY FACE
VITO IS NOW A
PLANT... WHAT
AM I STUPID??
SOME CRAZY
SCIENTIST
MAKES HIM
INTO A FLOWER!
I DONT LIKE
JOKES

BELIEVE ME
WHEN I TELL YOU
ROCCO - YOU ARE
FAMILY... WE ALWAYS
TREATED YOU LIKE
A SON - FROM
THE DAY YOU
FIRST MADE YOUR
BONES - WE
EMBRACED YOU!



BUT GRAP! 'SCUSE - GRAP!
A FAMILY GOTTA HAVE
RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER
RHT? ... YOU'RE A GOOD
SOLDIER WE DONT
FORGET THE OTHER
HITS YOU MADE
FOR US ...



NOW... THE
FAMILY GOT
A JOB FOR
YOU. A
BIG ONE!!
I GIVE YOU
A CHANCE
TO MAKE
UP FOR
THE SLOPPY
ONE OKAY?



TURN
ON
THE TV
THE
10 O'CLOCK
NEWS
IS
ON!

...WITH THE
ELECTION JUST
WEEKS AWAY IT
APPEARS NOW THE
PRESIDENT IS AHEAD
OF DEXTER MILGATE
BY MORE THAN
2-1 IN THE
LATEST
POLLS...

...IF MILGATE LOSES
WE DROP A COUPLA
MILLION... THE FAMILY CAN'T
AFFORD IT... WE GO BROKE
AND THE REST WILL BE
ON US LIKE VULTURES!

WE NEED
INSURANCE ROCCO...
HIT THE PRESIDENT
BEFORE THE
ELECTION!







... PREPOSTEROUS!!
I CAN'T NEGOTIATE A DEAL
LIKE THIS SITTING HERE...

NOW, NOW, MACREADY...
YOU'RE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING...
... BES DES ONCE Y'R BACK
IN THE STATES YOU MIGHT CHANGE
YOUR MIND... THEN, THE SOVIETS
ARE JUST WAITING TO
COME IN ON IT...

AND - IF I
HAVE TO DEAL
WITH THEM THEY
SEND IN THEIR
PEOPLE... I'LL HAVE
A REVOLUTION HERE
IN A YEAR
AND... CHHHH!!

WE
CAN'T
HAVE
THAT
!

SIR, I
HAVE A U.S.
WIRE REPORT!
... LOOKS LIKE
THE PRESIDENT
WILL BE
REELECTED!
MILGATE
IS WAY
DOWN
IN THE
POLLS!

DAMN
ONCE
HE'S IN -
HE'LL
STOP
THE
LAUNCH

'SEE...
WE
HAVEN'T
MUCH
TIME

AHH, SIR -
NEW YORK
CALLING
... IT'S
YOUR
OFFICE

YOUR
MOVE
MACREADY.

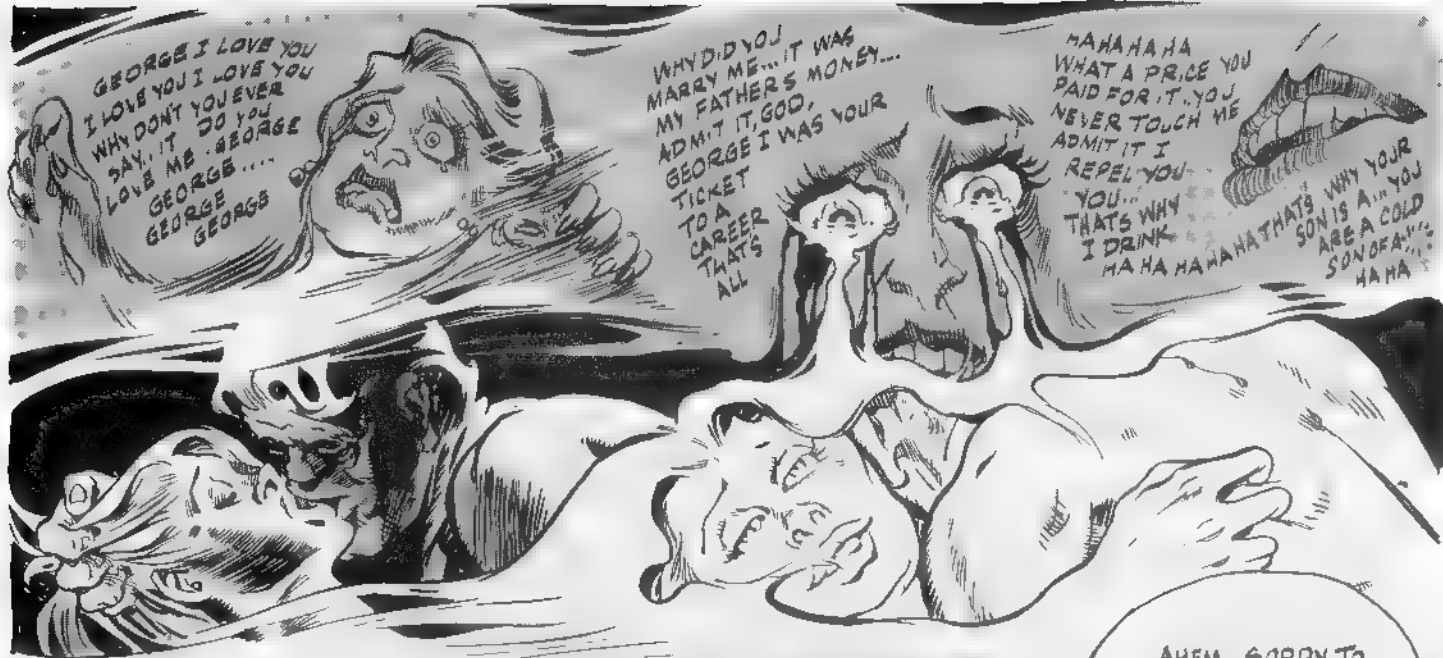
YES
YES!

GOOD!
... OH,
BY THE
WAY
YOUR
KING
IS IN
CHECK!

OKAY!
YOU GET THE
MONEY... I GET
THE LAUNCHING...
MULTINATIONAL
GETS ALL
INDUSTRIAL
CONCESSIONS
!!

HELLO.
MACREADY HERE!
NO NO, ... FINE ... FINE JUST
A FEW MORE DAYS ... GET
OUR FINANCE PEOPLE ON THIS!
I WANT A 100 MILLION LOAN TO
SIDAMI, AT ONCE ... NO NOT
THROUGH THE BANKS. D. RECT!
ALSO CONTACT OUR
SENATOR ... AN 'AID' GRANT
AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE!
SURE ... HE'S ON THE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEE!
NO, I'LL STAY HERE UNTIL
IT'S ALL SET IN MOTION -
OF COURSE ... THIS IS
TOP PRIORITY!!







... HOW MUCH TIME
DO I HAVE? ... WHAT KIND
OF HELP WILL THE CIA GIVE...

I FIGURE YOU HAVE A
48-HOUR HEAD-START
ON THEIR KGB... ACTUALLY,
SHE CONTACTED US... NADIA
WANTS YOU TO COME GET
HER... YOU'RE BOOKED
ON THE NOON CONCORD!

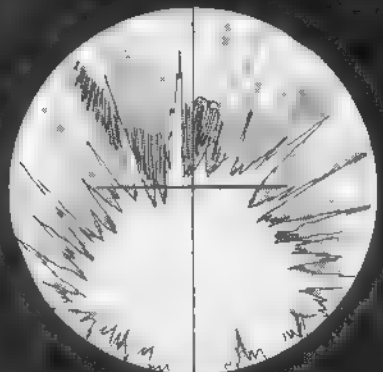
... HERE'S YOUR
RETURN TICKETS...
SORRY, THAT'S IT!!
WE'RE IN AN ELECTION
TIME... NO ONE STICKS
HIS NECK OUT... TOO
SENSITIVE... SEE?

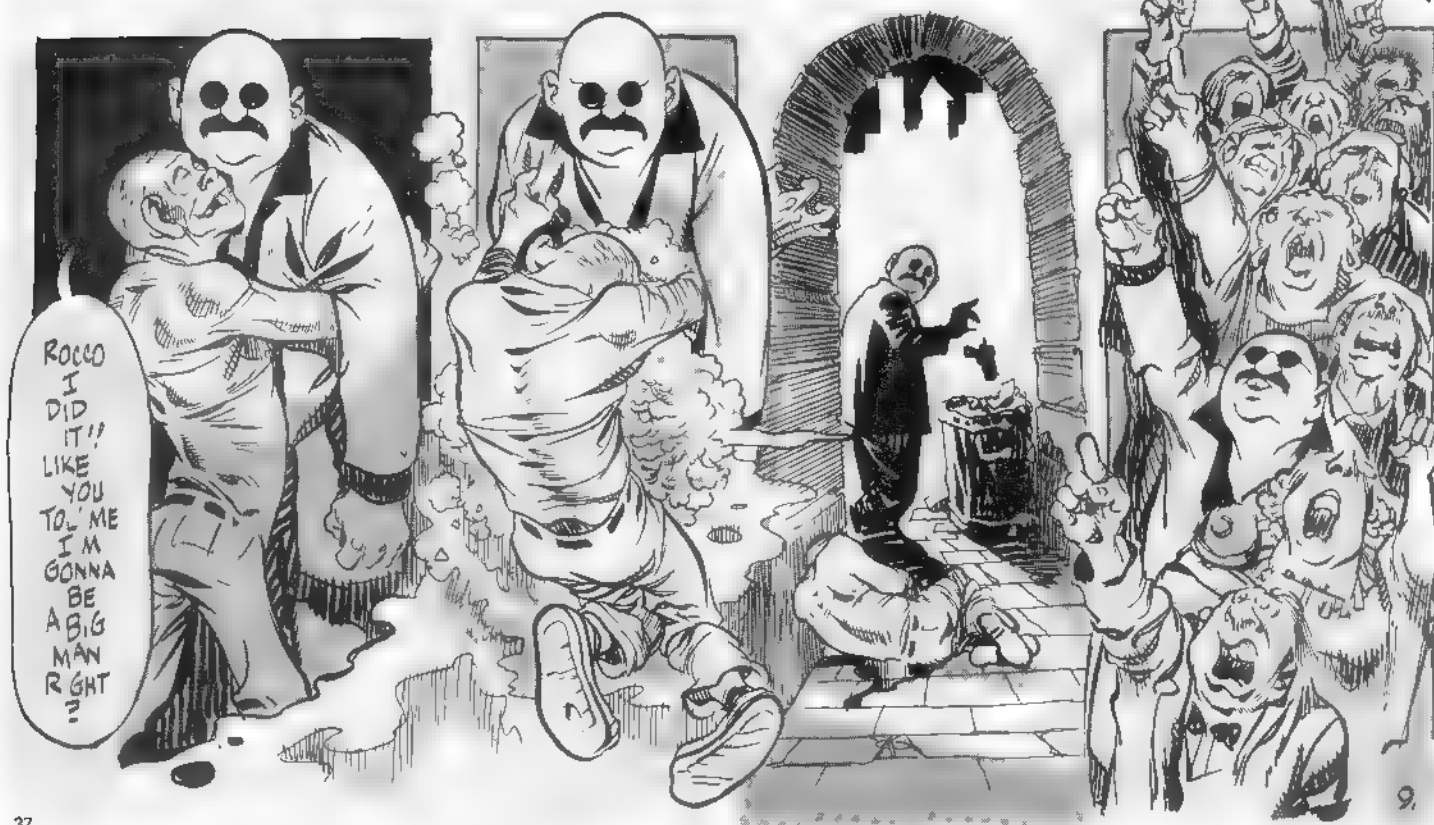
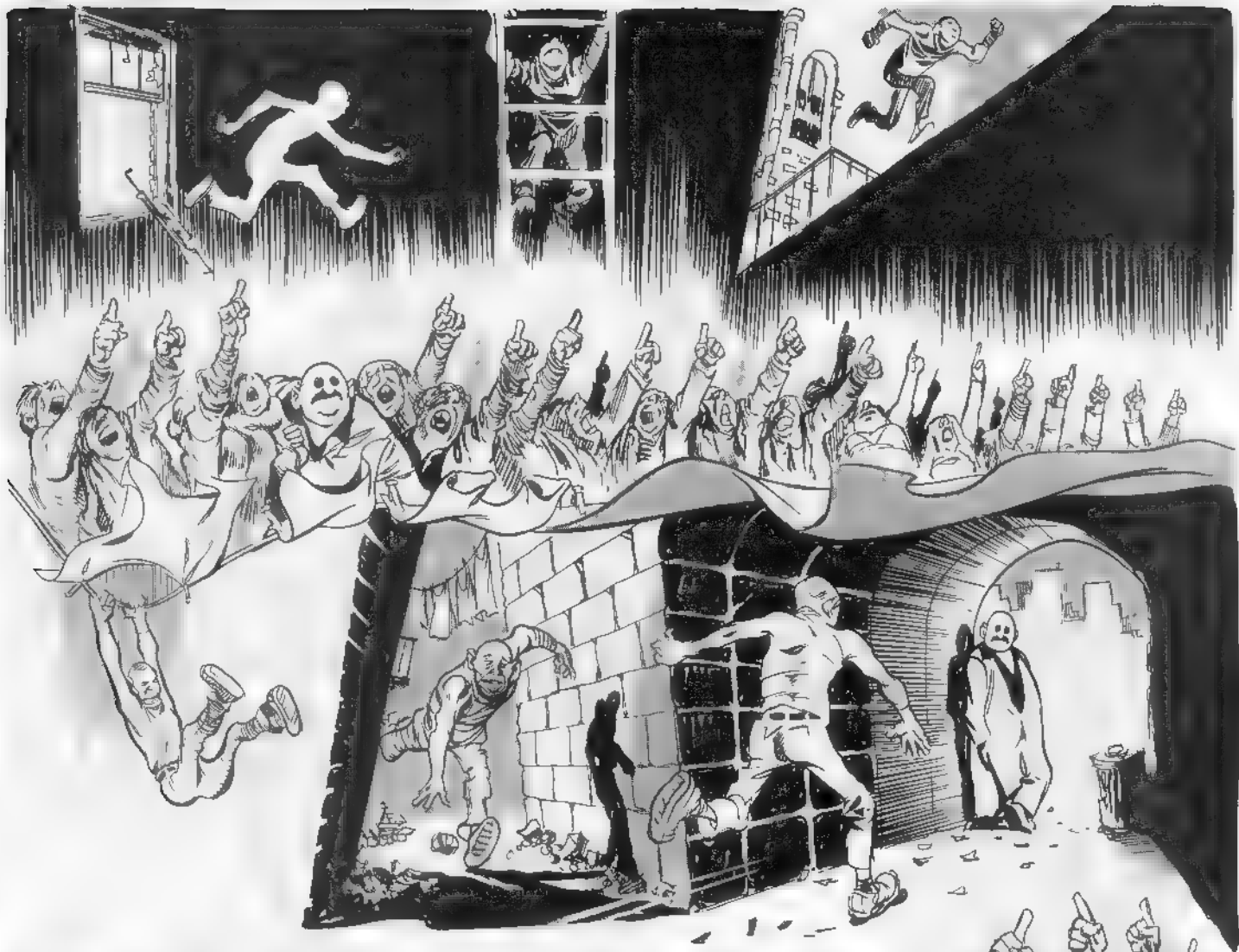
YEAH!!
THANKS
A
LOT!

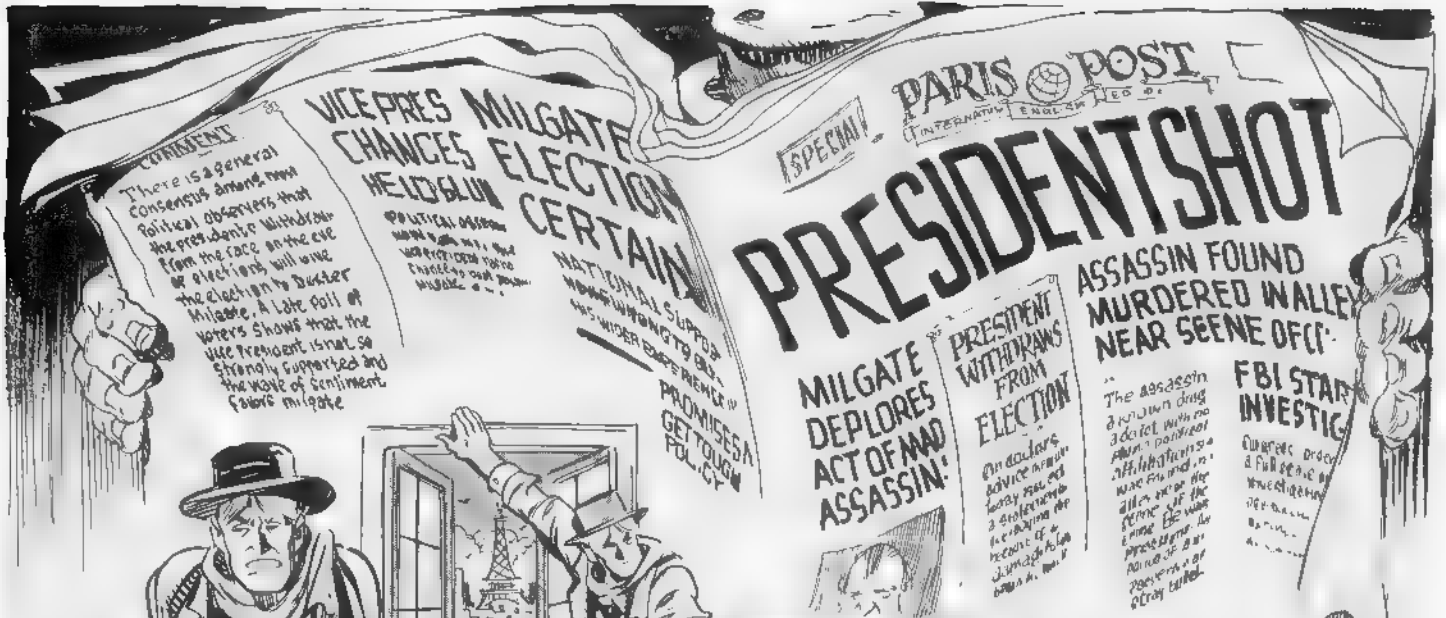
... AND MY
FELLOW AMERICANS,
I CAN ONLY STAND
ON MY RECORD

... IN THE FOUR YEARS
I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE
WE HAVE LED THIS NAT. ON
OUT OF ECONOMIC MESS
TO REAL GROWTH IN..

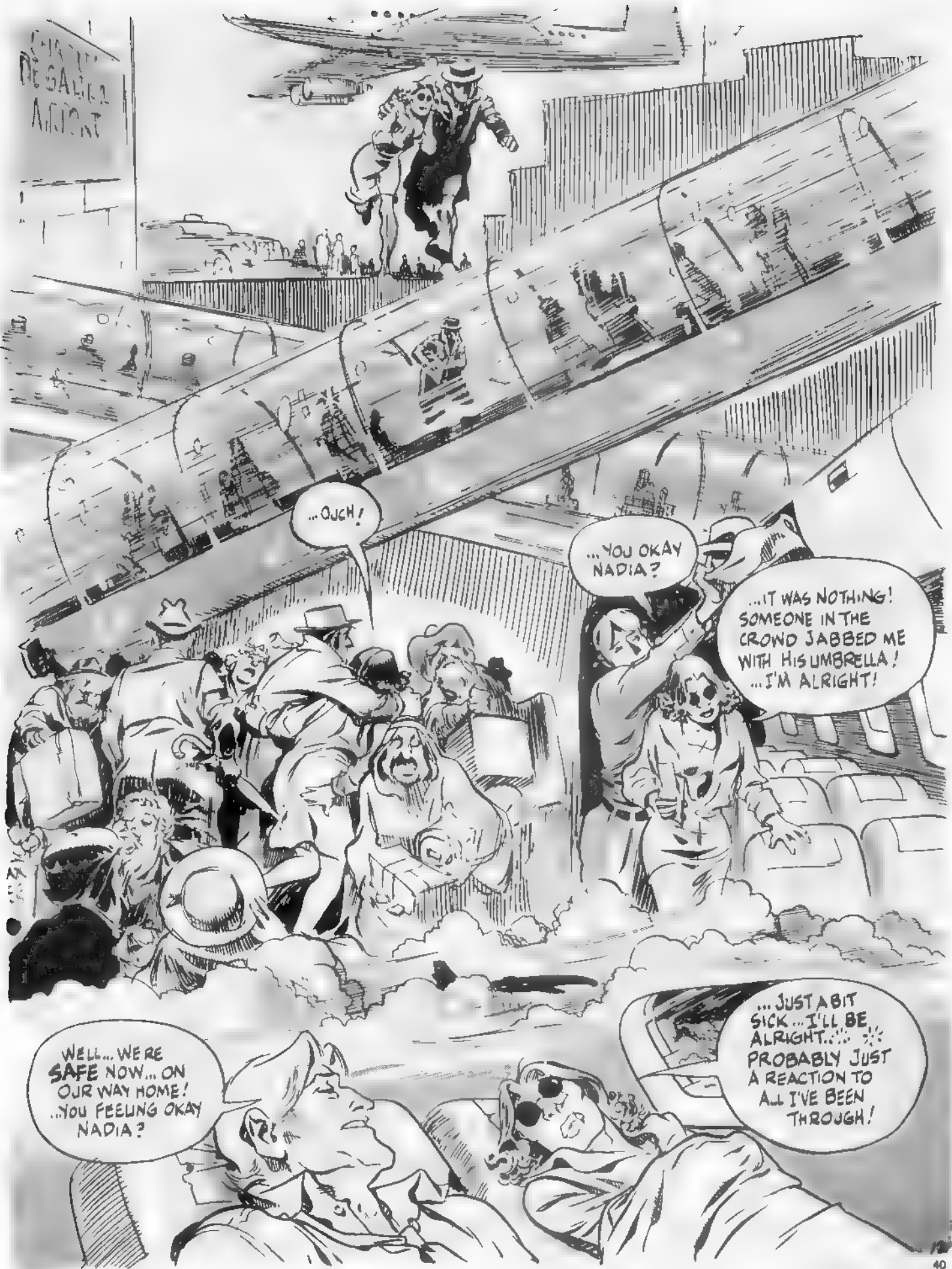
IF I AM
REELECTED, I
PLEDGE TO...











...OUCH!

...YOU OKAY
NADIA?

...IT WAS NOTHING!
SOMEONE IN THE
CROWD JABBED ME
WITH HIS UMBRELLA!
...I'M ALRIGHT!

WELL... WE'RE
SAFE NOW... ON
OUR WAY HOME!
...YOU FEELING OKAY
NADIA?

...JUST A BIT
SICK... I'LL BE
ALRIGHT...
PROBABLY JUST
A REACTION TO
ALL I'VE BEEN
THROUGH!



WELL...YOU'VE CERTAINLY LIVED UP TO YOUR PROMISE, MR. MACREADY.. MY FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS THE MONEY IS ALL CREDITED!

THE LAUNCH PLATFORM IS READY ...LIFT-OFF CAN BE ANYTIME NOW!

HOW'S THE 'PASSENGER' STATUS, DR. HOAD?

IT'S IN PLACE... THE CULTURE WILL BE ON BOARD. IF ALL MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT THE PLANTS WILL BE 3-YEARS OLD BY THE TIME THEY GET THERE...THE PLANT INCUBATION IS TIMED TO TAKE 7-YEARS -OR A TOTAL OF 10 YEARS...THE LENGTH OF THE WHOLE JOURNEY TO BERNARD!



WE'VE PROGRAMMED THE ROCKET TO ORBIT THE EARTH TWICE...THEN TO CONTINUE TO DESTINATION BERNARD!

ACTUALLY THE PLANTS ARE 'WIRED' TO TRANSMITTERS WHICH WILL COMMUNICATE WITH OUR RECEIVERS ON EARTH.

IT WILL ORBIT BERNARD TWICE AND SOFT-LAND THE PASSENGER MODULE... THEN AS THE PLANT'S OWN NERVOUS SYSTEMS REACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT -OR TO ANY OTHER FORM OF LIFE, WE WILL RECEIVE IT HERE! THUS WE WILL BE THE FIRST ON EARTH TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET!



SO, MACREADY YOU'LL GET A LIFT-OFF AT YOUR CALL

... RIGHT! LOOKING FORWARD TO IT GENERAL... GOOD BY... GOOD LUCK!

GOOD BYE!

...DON'T WORRY DR. HOAD!
I'LL KEEP MY WORD ON
THAT NOBEL
CANDIDACY....

TAKE 'ER UP CAPTAIN!
I'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE
SIDIAM! ... OH, WHEN WE'RE
ALOFT- CALL NEW YORK
GIVE THEM OUR
E.T.A.!

....OH... ER... AH...
**AND CAPTAIN I DON'T
WANT TO BE DISTURBED**
.. I'M.. AH, GOING TO
REST DURING THE
ENTIRE FLIGHT!

...AND
NOW, LITTLE
CORA... WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO ABOUT
YOU? I'M A
MARRIED
MAN- YOU
KNOW!

I'LL BE YOUR
MISTRESS... JUST
TO BE WITH YOU...
PERHAPS ONE DAY
YOU CAN DIVORCE
YOUR WIFE... WE
CAN MARRY... I
SO WANT TO BE
SOMEBODY!

YOU
WILL
DEAR...
YOU'LL
HAVE
IT
ALL...
I'LL BE
GOOD
TO
YOU!

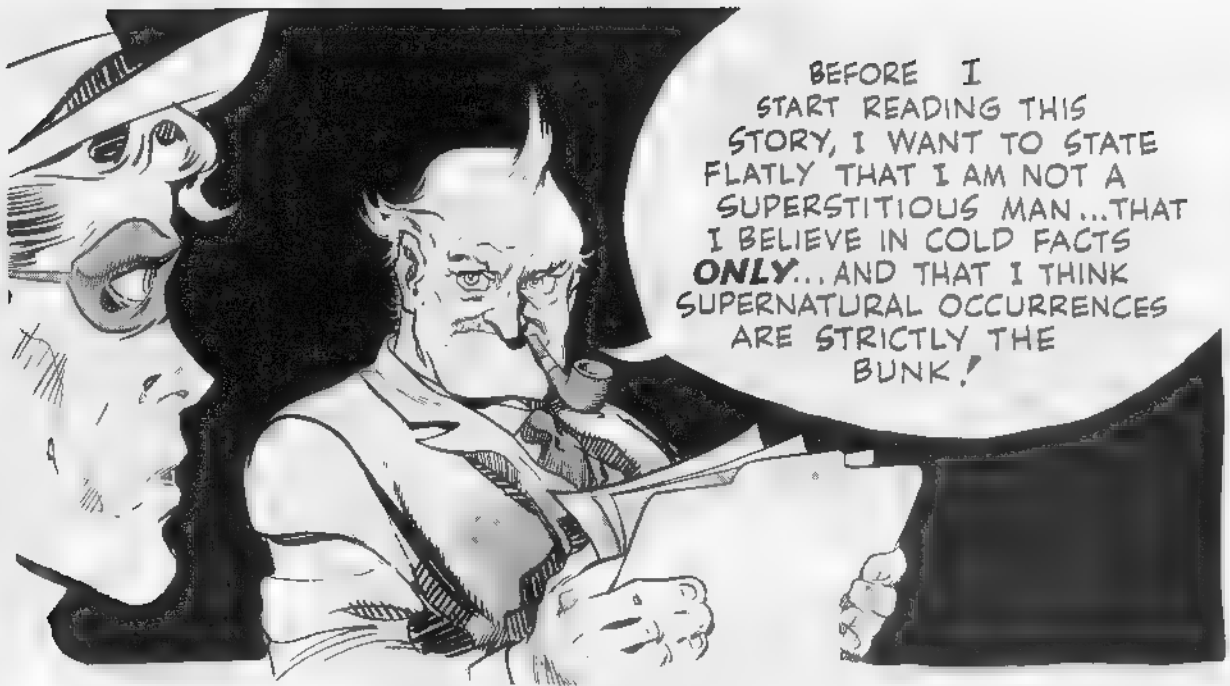
"AND
I'LL
BE
GOOD
FOR
YOU!"



Doppleganger

THERE IS AN OLD LEGEND IN GERMAN FOLKLORE WHICH TELLS OF THE "DOPPLE GANGER" WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MAN'S SECOND SELF, OR AN EXACT PHYSICAL DUPLICATE WHO PURSUES HIM RELENTLESSLY, OF COURSE THIS IS ONLY A SILLY LEGEND. BUT TAKE THE CASE OF JOE JONES FOR INSTANCE....





BEFORE I
START READING THIS
STORY, I WANT TO STATE
FLATLY THAT I AM NOT A
SUPERSTITIOUS MAN...THAT
I BELIEVE IN COLD FACTS
ONLY...AND THAT I THINK
SUPERNATURAL OCCURRENCES
ARE STRICTLY THE
BUNK!

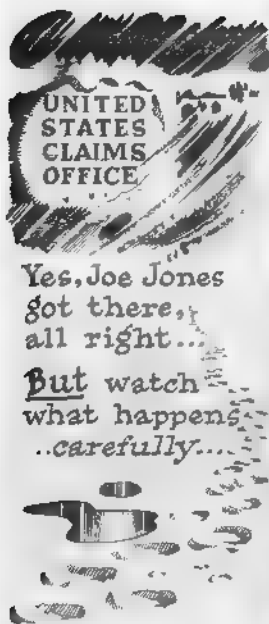
In the winter of 1905 Joe Jones and his partner prospector found a gold mine near Yusek, Alaska....

Now Joe Jones was an ordinary guy... not much different from you or me....

But... the sudden strike threw him off balance and he...er... "liquidated" the partnership on the spot....

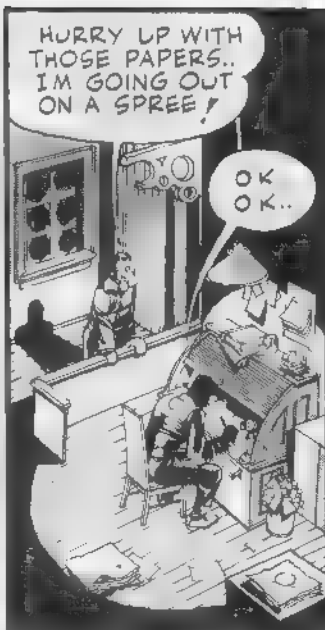


NOW TO THE CLAIMS
OFFICE...AND IN ONE HOUR
THE MINE WILL BELONG TO
ME!



Yes, Joe Jones got there, all right...

But watch what happens...carefully...



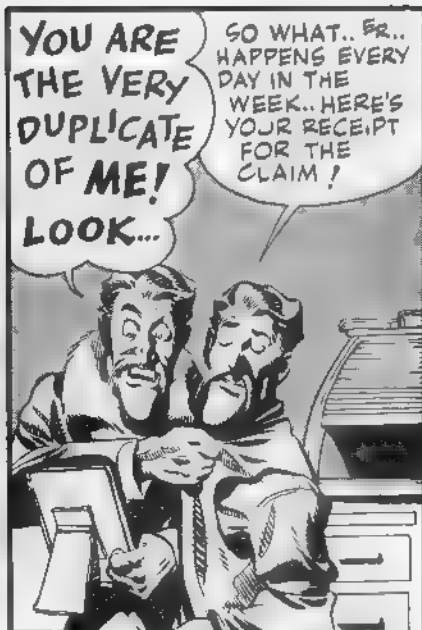
HURRY UP WITH THOSE PAPERS.. I'M GOING OUT ON A SPREE!

OK OK..



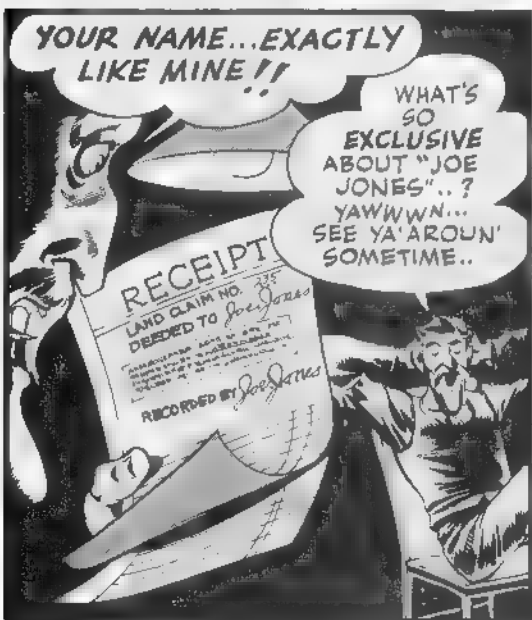
SIGN HERE... IT'S AN AFFIDAVIT OF SOLE DISCOVERY..

SURE..
YIKE



YOU ARE THE VERY DUPLICATE OF ME! LOOK...

SO WHAT.. ER.. HAPPENS EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK.. HERE'S YOUR RECEIPT FOR THE CLAIM!



YOUR NAME...EXACTLY LIKE MINE!!

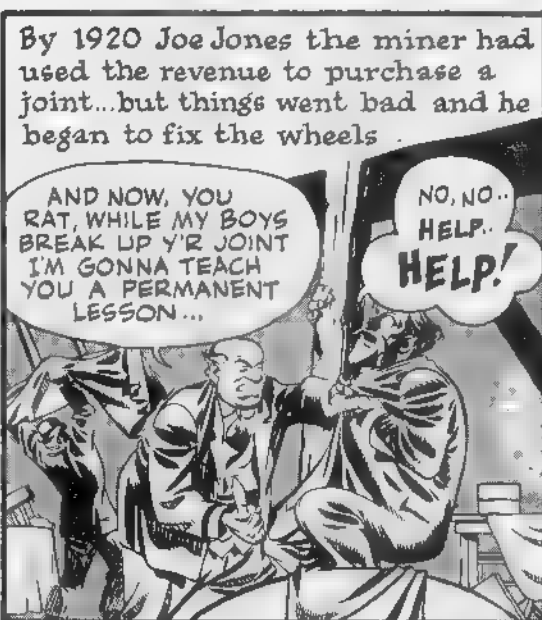
WHAT'S SO EXCLUSIVE ABOUT "JOE JONES"..? YAWWWN... SEE YA'AROUN' SOMETIME..

Remember that, please!

Read it again... burn it into your memory...

it is important!! because from here on in things move awfully fast...

AWFULLY FAST!



By 1920 Joe Jones the miner had used the revenue to purchase a joint...but things went bad and he began to fix the wheels

AND NOW, YOU RAT, WHILE MY BOYS BREAK UP Y'R JOINT I'M GONNA TEACH YOU A PERMANENT LESSON...

NO, NO.. HELP.. **HELP!**



HOLD IT, AJAX!

WHAT.. **AHK**



YOU!?

TH THE CLAIMS AGENT...

JOE JONES IS THE NAME. SAME'S YOURS.. ANY TIME YOU'RE IN TROUBLE AGAIN I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP!



WAIT! WHY DID YOU HELP ME...?? HEY... OH.. HE'S GONE..

Joe cashed in his chips and tried a new field of enterprise... Chicago... where he married a meat-packer's orphaned daughter....

WE'RE JUST DELIGHTED, MR. JONES... POOR DEAR MEHITABEL NEEDS A BIG STRONG MAN LIKE YOU TO HELP HER RUN THE BUSINESS..

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!



The honeymoon was brief...



ER, I'D LIKE TO CASH N MY POOR WIFE'S TICKET... SIGH: SHE... ER... SHE DIED... LAST NIGHT...

CERTAINLY! THE TICKET, PLEASE.



EEK! YOU?

WELL, WELL, WELL... JONES!

there was only one thing to do... travel!... elude this double who was black-mailing him... yes, TRAVEL!

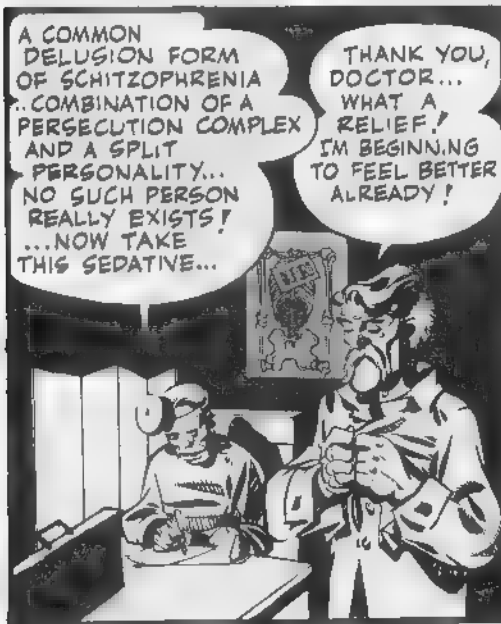


WELL, HELLO!

HELLO...

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!

EEK!



A COMMON DELUSION FORM OF SCHIZOPHRENIA... COMBINATION OF A PERSECUTION COMPLEX AND A SPLIT PERSONALITY... NO SUCH PERSON REALLY EXISTS! ...NOW TAKE THIS SEDATIVE...

THANK YOU, DOCTOR... WHAT A RELIEF! I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

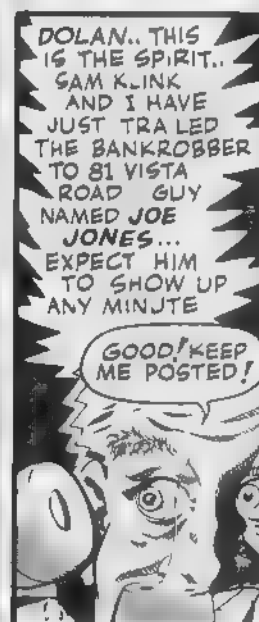


...and that night for the first time in years, Joe Jones the ex-pro prospector slept well... it was after all only a delusion...

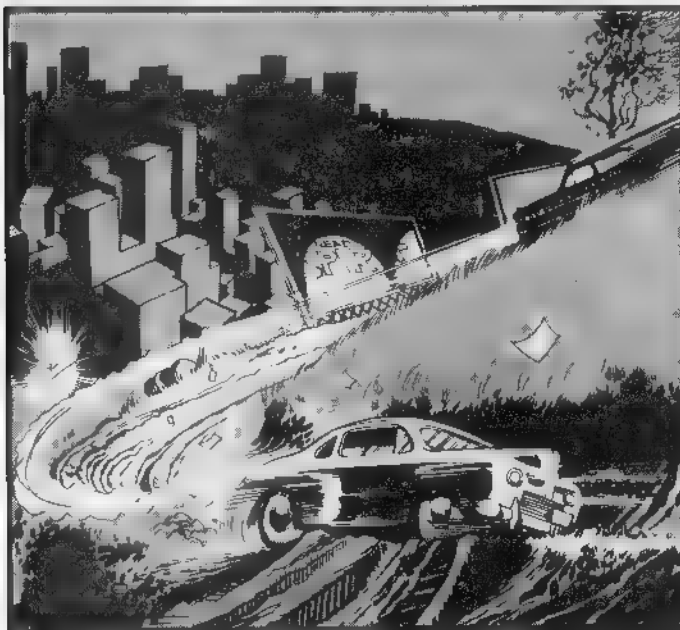
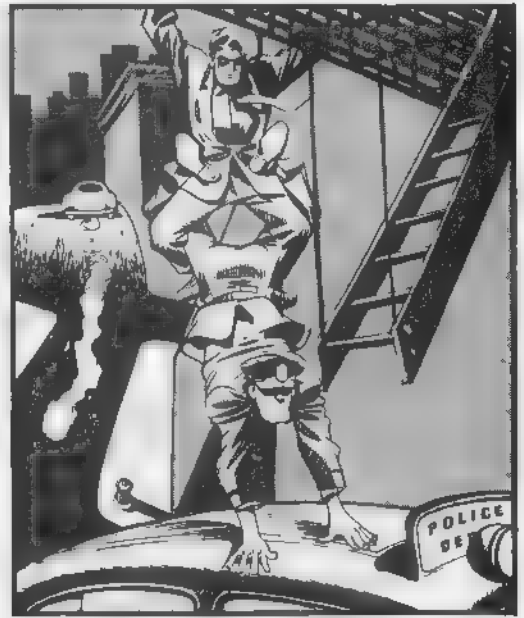
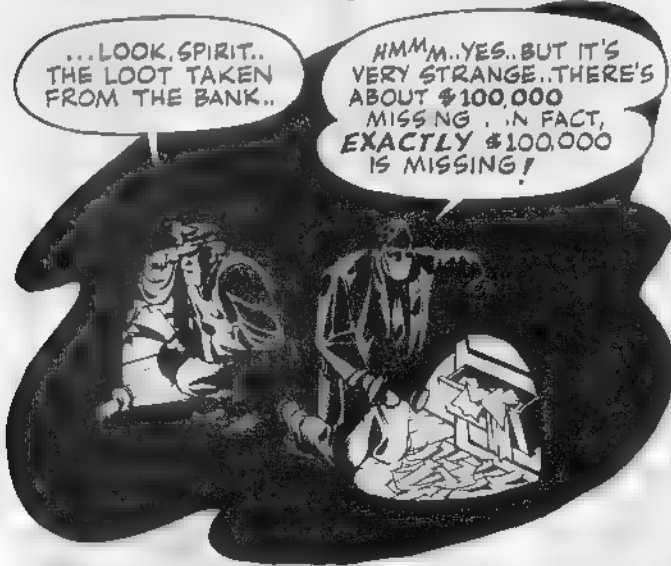
and so... October of 1947 found Joe Jones in Central City, the owner of a business...

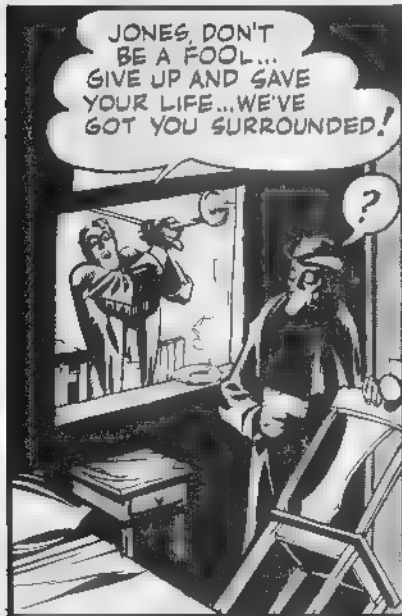
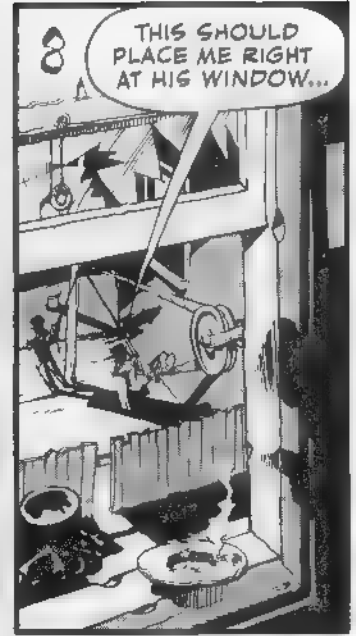


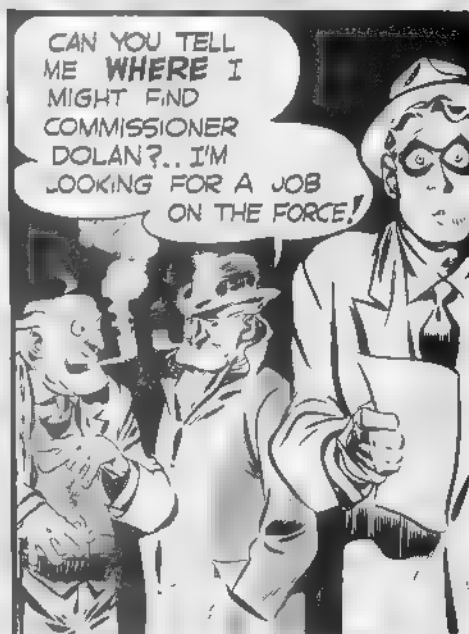
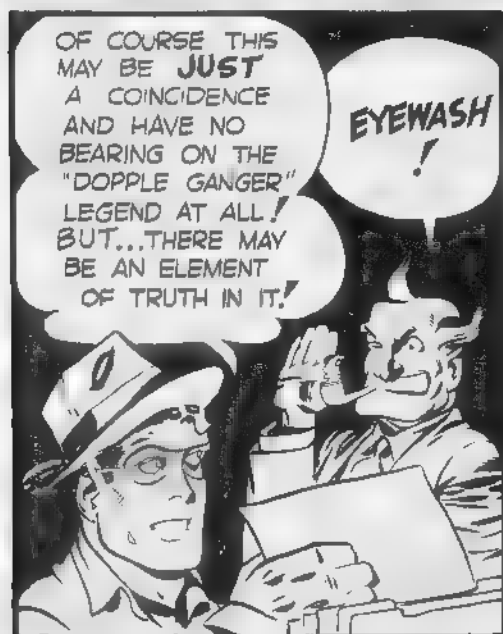
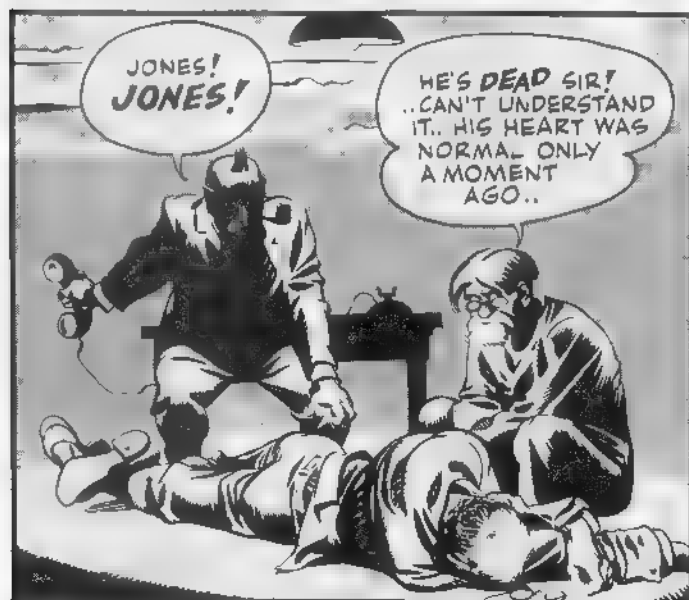
...the business went along but Jones couldn't play it straight... one night, upon checking his books...




and so, at that very moment...









OUTER SPACE....
Entry #6

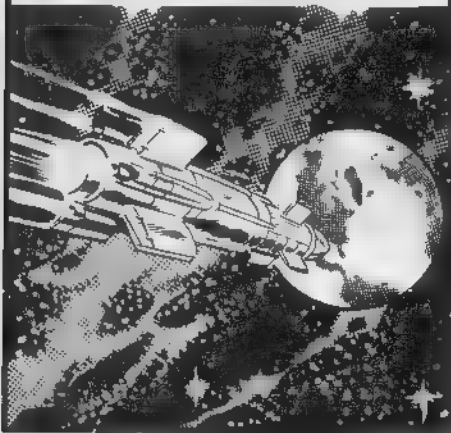
THE *LAST* MAN

ON THE PLANET MOON

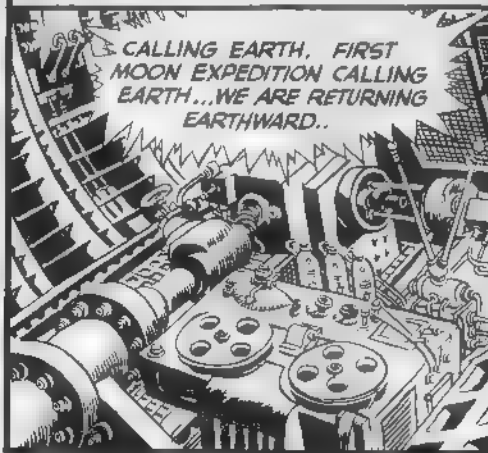
We have fired our
advance signal rocket
earthward...it should
precede us by two days.
We cannot but wonder
at the kind of reception
awaiting us.

BY WILL EISNER

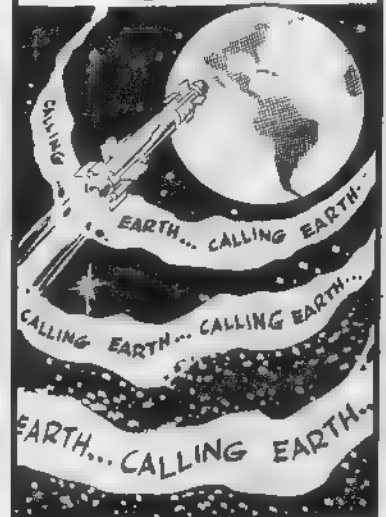
Like a sleek homing pigeon, a signal rocket streaks through space toward the thick atmosphere of earth...



Inside its alloy-steel hull a tape recorder begins its cool cry for attention over its short wave set...

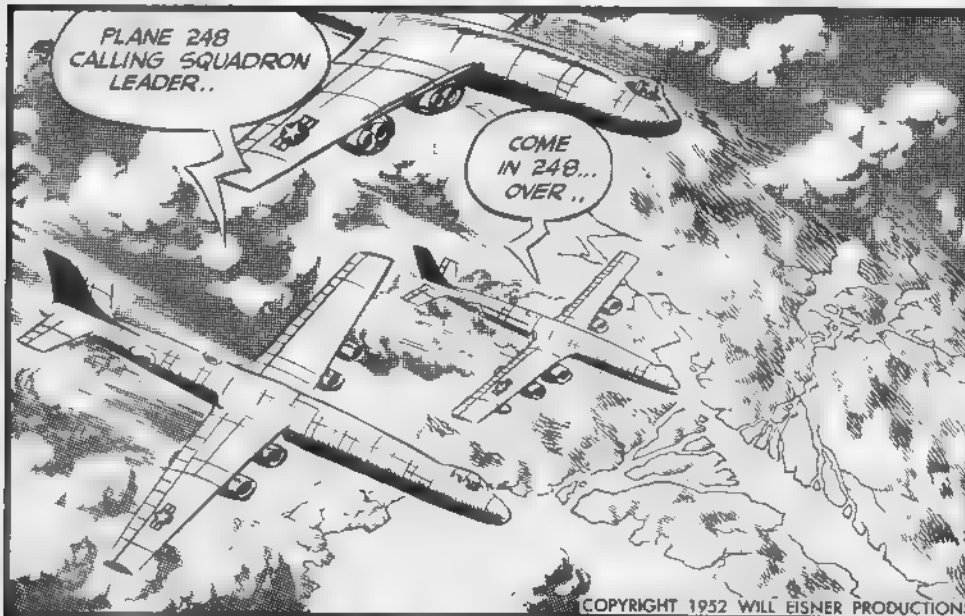


...over and over it repeats...



PLANE 248 CALLING SQUADRON LEADER...

COME IN 248... OVER ..



COPYRIGHT 1952 WILL EISNER PRODUCTIONS

...AM GETTING A SIGNAL...FAINT...BUT CAN MAKE OUT FOLLOWING...
-FIRST-MOON-EXPEDITION-RETURNING-EARTHWARD-

CLIMB TO 30,000 FEET AND KEEP ON LOOKOUT FOR ROCKET, WE ARE LANDING... OVER AND OUT.

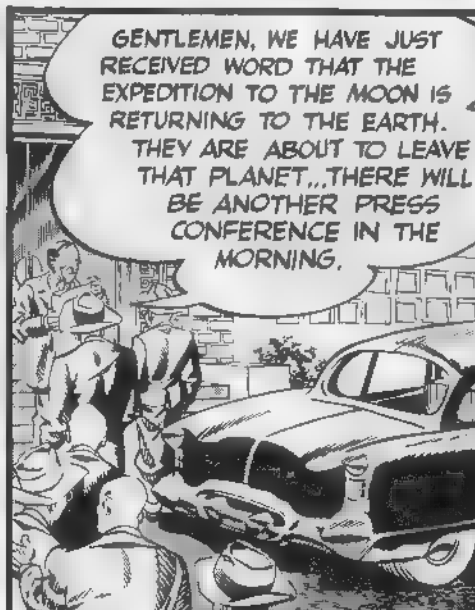


DID YOU GET MY MESSAGE, TOWER??

YES... TAKE NORTH RUNWAY AND REPORT TO ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT ONCE.

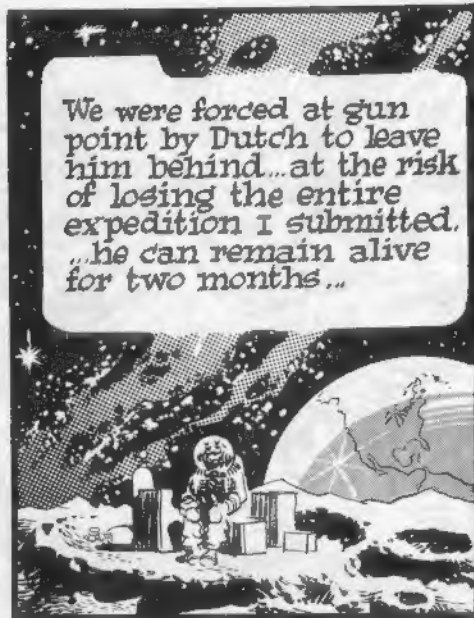


GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE EXPEDITION TO THE MOON IS RETURNING TO THE EARTH. THEY ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THAT PLANET...THERE WILL BE ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE MORNING.

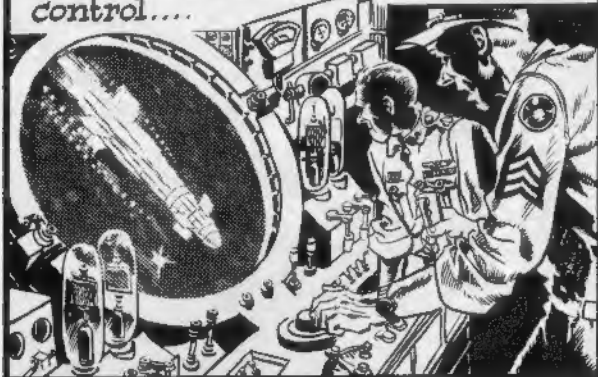


HELLO...GIMME ARCHIE BLYKE QUICK!! I GOT NEWS FOR HIM...





Meanwhile...the signal rocket, now in the earth's atmosphere, veers slightly toward Central City...the radar beam in its nose connects with the Central Rocket Station's giant "attractor" beam, its landing is now under human control....



At the Central Rocket Station's gate...a crowd has already gathered...a rumor has it that this is no signal rocket...it is the expedition itself...



MY RELATIVE'S ABOARD THAT SHIP.. DUTCH, HE'S MY...

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S YOUR MOTHER, NO!



I SAID



I'M GONNA BE THE FIRST AND LAST GUY DUTCH WILL SEE...THAT DIRTY SQUEALIN'...



I BEEN WAITIN' FOR THIS BREAK A LONG TIME...



THERE'S THE REMAINS OF A HUMAN IN THE WRECKAGE, SIR....

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT...FAR AS I KNOW THE SIGNAL ROCKET WAS MEANT TO CRASH HERE... AND NO SPACE WAS PROVIDED IN IT FOR A PASSENGER...

MAYBE IT WAS A MOON MAN...





By Kl. Nordling

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Klaus Nordling, a longtime Eisner assistant, is probably best known for drawing *Lady Luck*, a popular back-up feature in the original *Spirit* sections. Sixteen of these stories have been collected for the first time in a squareback volume, complete with a brief introduction by Nordling. \$5.95 plus 50¢ postage & handling.

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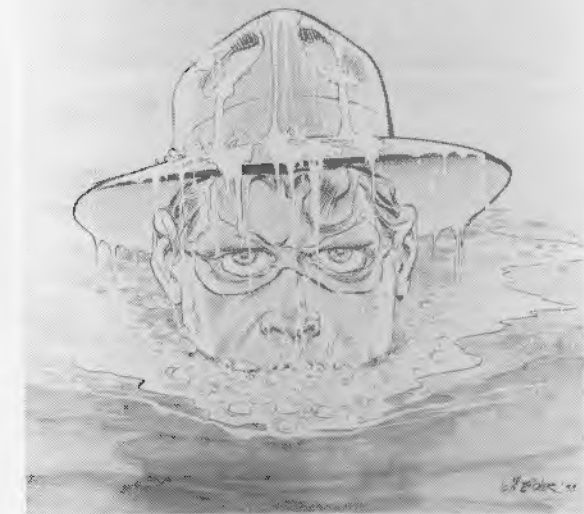
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HAVE YOU SEEN WILL EISNER'S NEW "CITY" PORTFOLIO YET? REFER TO PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS!

COMIC
BOOK
SECTION

FOX RIVER PATRIOT

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1942

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

